

strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Ariel Tovar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character to all his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR THOMAS P.
PERCIAK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Thomas P. Perciak, the Mayor of the City of Strongsville, Ohio. A profoundly respected and influential member of Cleveland's Polish community and a leader of greater Cleveland's civic culture, Mayor Perciak is the recipient of the Forty-Fifth annual "Good Joe" Polish Heritage Award.

Mayor Perciak, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, carries with him a rich history of public service and advocacy for northeast Ohio, especially in the Polish community. A graduate of the David M. Myers University, he has served and continues to serve in many leadership roles. Prior to becoming Mayor of Strongsville, he held various senior positions within Fifth Third Bank, including Executive Vice President of the Northeastern Ohio region. In addition, Mayor Perciak leads the charitable gift and fundraising arm of Southwest General Hospital as Chairman of the Southwest General Community Health Foundation, a position he has held since 1996.

From his time as a student at St. Andrews Abbey—founded Benedictine High School—located in Cleveland—to his volunteer service on their Board of Trustees, Mayor Perciak has represented the Benedictine Order of Cleveland with pride and distinction. His religious faith also compels him to dedicate his time and talent toward serving on the Board of Financial Advisors for the Diocese of Cleveland, as well as on the Finance Committee of St. John Neumann Catholic Church.

Mayor Perciak has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including induction into the Benedictine High School Hall of Honors and Companions on the Journey Awards of outstanding service and generosity. In addition, in the summer of 2007, the Southwest General Residential Hospice was renamed the Thomas P. Perciak Family Residential Hospice.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mayor Thomas Perciak for his outstanding and tireless efforts as a supporter and advocate for Polish causes, as well as for his extensive and diverse service to many individuals and families who call the Cleveland area home.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING REBEKAH THOMAS FOR WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rebekah Thomas showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Rebekah Thomas was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Rebekah Thomas always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rebekah Thomas on winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING JOSHUA TYLER
BOYDSTON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Tyler Boydston, 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 374, and in 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 Tyler Boydston for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUANITA
PERRY

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mrs. Juanita Perry, a longtime resident of the First District, who passed away on March 24th of this year.

Mrs. Perry was a leader in the First District where she has touched many lives through her countless hours of dedication to her community. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family as they mourn her loss.

Juanita loved to help anyone in need. She spent sixty-two years volunteering at Mountain Home Veterans Affairs Medical Center where she carried the name of "Little Sweetheart of Mountain Home."

Juanita was also a lifetime member at Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 2108 and Military Order of the Purple Heart Post 224. Her time spent with the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women's Club was honorable and she received a Certificate of Award from the National Federation of Republican Women in 2007.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in honoring the life of Juanita Perry, a loving family member whose commitment and unwavering support to East Tennessee will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING WORLD AUTISM DAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Autism Day in an effort to increase awareness about one of the most common mental disorders afflicting our country today. Autism is becoming an increasingly common disorder; more and more children in America and throughout the world are born with it every day. The first step toward treating this incurable condition is recognition. Therefore, I rise today in support of World Autism Day and to help shed light on this growing and very serious problem.

The statistics concerning autism are, to say the least, alarming. One in 150 children born today is diagnosed with autism. One in 94 newborn boys is now autistic. In fact, today alone there will be approximately 67 new cases of autism diagnosed. That translates to a new diagnosis every 20 minutes. These are incredibly alarming numbers and we must recognize that this disorder is increasingly common and also that, while there is no cure, the quicker we identify what the problem is, the quicker we can act. We may not yet be able to cure autism, but with a strong commitment from the Federal Government we can create better lives for the growing number of children that are afflicted with this condition.

There is no medical way to detect autism in a child. We must rely on a physician's trained eye to diagnose a child as autistic, and even then we cannot cure it, we can only treat it. There are various symptoms that indicate autism that a physician must recognize. This is why awareness and education are so important.

Today, I would like to recognize the efforts of doctors, advocates and families on World Autism Day and also bring attention to the shocking frequency with which autism is diagnosed. Therefore, I rise today to recognize World Autism Day, to commend those working toward education, treatment and some day a cure and to offer my support for these efforts.