

Through their commitment to a strong faith, VERN and Jo have touched many lives. However, in my opinion, the greatest accomplishment and contribution of this couple are their four children, Heidi and her husband, Bob; Brian; Todd and his wife, Mirjam; and Marla; and their five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. As they gather together on April 26 to mark this special day, it is the perfect time to reaffirm and strengthen the love and memories they share together.

Through a strong dedication to the institution of marriage, VERN and Jo have built a life of love and purpose. This celebration serves as an inspiration for all of us, and again reminds us that great things happen when we seek to serve and glorify God. What a fitting tribute to VERN and Jo.

I offer our best wishes for a joyfully memorable anniversary celebration as well as good health and much happiness for many years to come. As one of just a few scientists serving in the House, apparently our colleague has found the formula for lifelong happiness. May God continue to bless VERN and Jo, and I know that they will continue to be a blessing to their family, and to their many friends and colleagues.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month. Autism Awareness Month brings attention to the wide spectrum of autistic-related disorders affecting as many as 1 in 150 children born in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified autism as a national public health crisis whose cause and cure remain unknown.

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders. It is now more common in diagnosis than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs one's ability to communicate and relate to others; depending on the severity of the diagnosis, autism may dramatically affect one's quality of life and ability to obtain employment.

I am proud of the many organizations and programs that exist in the Chicagoland area to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of autism. I especially want to recognize Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago for its extraordinary work on this important issue. Easter Seals provides comprehensive autism services to its clients, including autism therapeutic schools, adult vocational programs, after school programs, information, and professional training. Illinois has seen a 353-percent increase in autism since 1993. Easter Seals is responding proactively to this increase by building the Therapeutic School and Center for Autism Research, which has already begun its construction and is expected to be completed in 2012. This landmark facility will offer stu-

dents with autism an array of services that includes medical assessments, nursing, behavior, speech, physical, and occupational therapy, social work services, art and music therapy, vocational training, and community training. Easter Seals Metropolitan Chicago has provided excellent care to its clients for over 70 years, and I commend them for their commitment to serving those affected by autism spectrum disorders in our community.

In Chicago and across the country, it is clear that autism is having an enormous effect on children and families. Autism Awareness Month and its associated events help shine light on this critical issue. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I am indeed pleased to join with my colleagues in celebrating the goals of awareness, prevention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders during this April's National Autism Awareness Month.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TAYLOR
HUFFMAN FOR WINNING
THE BOYS' DIVISION I STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, Taylor Huffman showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Taylor Huffman was a supportive team player; and

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

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Taylor Huffman on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HONORING COLIN STARNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colin Thomas Starnier of Liberty, Missouri. Colin 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 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

A TRIBUTE TO HILDA DAVIS

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Hilda Davis, recently awarded the 2008 Congressional Volunteer Recognition Award by the Second Congressional District of Maryland's Veterans Advisory Council.

Hilda Davis's husband belongs to the Elks Association's Essex Lodge No. 1866. The lodge visits the Baltimore VA Rehabilitation Extended Care Center, BRECC, frequently, and Hilda's involvement in these visits has increased throughout the years. Not only does Hilda do extensive work for the veterans at the BRECC, but she volunteers at other lodges when they invite veterans to their facilities for various events.

Hilda spends several hours a month volunteering at the BRECC, but she also spends many more hours doing behind the scenes work for BRECC events. For every holiday and party, Hilda makes sure she buys decorations and other festive items that can be used for events with and for the veterans.

During her spare time, Hilda also writes letters to different businesses and organizations asking for donations, either monetary or items that can be used for events for the veterans or given directly to the veterans themselves. Whenever Hilda learns of a female veteran patient at the BRECC, she makes personal comfort kits to take them. Because the BRECC facility does not have a canteen, Hilda will also periodically make snack bags to bring to the patients when the lodge makes their monthly visits to the veterans.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Hilda Davis. She is a remarkable volunteer for Maryland's veterans. Through her ongoing efforts, she has brought joy and delight to the hundreds of veterans she has worked with. Hilda has gone above and beyond the call of duty to aid those who have sacrificed to serve our great Nation.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA TO END ITS CRACK-
DOWN IN TIBET

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Res. 1077, Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other purposes.

It is important to encourage and support a dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama in order to improve the current and future situation of Tibet. For almost six decades the people of Tibet have been repressed by the Government of China by their policies, laws, and