

As chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, it has been my privilege to have collaborated with Dr. Lee and his dedicated staff at the Asian Division. Our shared pursuit to tell the complete Asian American and Pacific Islander, AAPI, story and dispel the cloak of invisibility and mischaracterization upon the community has given life to a new AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. This is another milestone of Dr. Lee's storied career.

Dr. Lee and his lovely wife Mary will soon move to Florida to bask in the sunny rays of retirement. But I suspect that he will not slow down, and will continue his many pursuits. As anyone who has met Dr. Lee can attest, his boundless, enthusiastic spirit will not allow him to stay idle. In fact, he has already promised to visit the Library frequently and is eager to start his new role as board director of the Asian Division Friends Society.

Madam Speaker, I commend Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee for his dedication and many contributions to the librarian profession and am especially grateful for his nurturing leadership of the Asian Division and of the establishment of the AAPI Collection at the Library of Congress. I wish Dr. Lee and his family all the best for his retirement and their future endeavors.

EAST DAVIDSON GOLDEN EAGLES
TAKE THE TITLE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the season for the East Davidson girls basketball team started with plenty of questions about having to replace veterans players with a host of new teammates. Head Coach Terry Allmon said to the Thomasville Times, "Two years ago, nobody expected us to do anything. Last year, the expectations were out of sight. This year, the same thing."

On March 25, 2008, the East Davidson Golden Eagles showed they had what it takes to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, NCHSAA, 2-A girls basketball championship. East Davidson won over Graham High School, 62-59. This is the first state championship for the East Davidson girls basketball team.

The championship win finally started to look possible at the start of the second half of the March 25 game against Graham, even though East Davidson was trailing, 30-27. The Golden Eagles used the third quarter to blow the game wide open, as they have done in the last three games.

This win comes at the end of a season for the Golden Eagles in which they finished 27-4. Coach Allmon also told the Thomasville Times, "This is a dream come true, these ladies here stepped up when they had to."

Congratulations are in order for Coach Terry Allmon and his assistants Billy Freeman and Brian Eddinger on a great season. The men will be the first to tell you that most of the credit goes out to the players on the court. The players who contributed to the title run included seniors Megan Byerly and Dee Lanier, juniors Mandi Beck, Alyssa Cutshaw, Haley Everhart, Anna Freeman, Elizabeth Merritt, and Felicia Whitley, sophomores Candace

Fox, Haley Grimsley, and Stacy Hicks, and freshmen Taylor Alexander and Chelsea Turner. The team was ably assisted by the scorekeeper Chasz Brown and the videographer Tyler Gibson.

On behalf of the Sixth District, we would like to once again congratulate the East Davidson Golden Eagles on having a great season and winning the North Carolina 2-A girls basketball championship. We are all so proud of their accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to declare my support for the employees of the Department of Homeland Security and to thank them for their important service to our country. I opposed the formation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002. There was good reason to believe that a reorganization that would take at least 10 years and possibly more, would cause delay in implementation of real measures that could make the country safer.

I pointed out that the proposed reorganization of 22 different agencies into one large entity would not constitute efficient and effective government, nor would it help the thousands of Americans who die of violent crimes each year in this country.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, it soon became apparent that my concerns about establishing the Department of Homeland Security were valid. Katrina and the subsequent flooding took at least 1,835 lives and sent a powerful reminder to the people of the United States that the homeland is not secure. I certainly do not expect that the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or any other government agency can prevent a natural disaster. But FEMA's own mandate was to coordinate disaster relief through preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. The federal response should have been to make things happen and to make them happen quickly; to anticipate and respond to the needs of local and state officials.

Instead Hurricane Katrina will long be held in our Nation's collective conscience. We will remember the terrified and helpless faces of the victims that this disaster claimed, displaced and horrified. We will remember the faces of our fellow citizens pleading for help, for days as they endured horrible conditions at the convention center and Superdome. The unbearably inadequate response to these disasters exacerbates the shame, heartache and insecurity that has resulted. The images haunt us.

What was the response from the former FEMA Director Michael Brown in testimony before the House? He said, "[a]nd while my heart goes out to people on fixed incomes, it is primarily a state and local responsibility. And in my opinion, it's the responsibility of faith-based organizations, of churches and

charities and others to help those people." Michael Chertoff, Secretary of DHS said, "I remember on Tuesday morning picking up newspapers, and I saw headlines, 'New Orleans Dodged the Bullet.'" Is this the way we make the homeland safer? By attempting to fabricate leadership instead of demonstrating it?

Furthermore, in 2003 the Administration terminated the collective bargaining rights of TSA screeners just as TSA workers were ready to vote on joining the union of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). DHS does not allow a unionized TSA workforce. Transportation security workers deserve collective bargaining rights. It is an insult to these dedicated men and women within DHS, including FEMA, the Army Corp of Engineers and Border Patrol that their rights to organize have been denied.

I unequivocally appreciate the dedicated service of DHS employees. Their hard work and commitment to public service is outstanding and valuable. However, I cannot celebrate the creation of DHS.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
RYAN QUEEN FOR WINNING THE
BOYS' DIVISION I STATE BAS-
KETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ryan Queen showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and Whereas, Ryan Queen was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Ryan Queen 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 Ryan Queen 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 TRENTON LERETTE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Trenton Crane LeRette of Blue Springs, Missouri. Trenton 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 1306, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Trenton has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Trenton 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 Trenton Crane LeRette for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAPSON

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Ralph Rapson, one of the country's most influential architects. His Modernist designs were not only significant in the State of Minnesota but can be seen around the world. While I regret to report the recent passing of Ralph Rapson at the age of 93, I am grateful for his talent, his dedication and his passion; all of which we were lucky to have him share with the state of Minnesota.

Born in Alma, Michigan in 1914, Ralph earned his degree in architecture at the University of Michigan. In 1939 he designed a streamlined rocking chair that went on to bear his name, the Rapson Rapid Rocker. From 1942–1946 he taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1946–1954.

Mr. Rapson's relationship with Minnesota began over 50 years ago when he came to the University of Minnesota to serve as the Dean of the Architecture School. From 1954–1984 as the Dean he went on to influence the lives and careers of many architecture and design students. Ralph Rapson's defining work was the innovative and asymmetrical themed former Guthrie Theater building across from the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Mr. Rapson's resume also includes the Rarig Center for Performing Arts on the University of Minnesota campus, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Paul Park, the Riverside Plaza housing complex in Minneapolis and the former Pillsbury House in Wayzata and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Paul. He also designed the United States Embassies in Stockholm, Sweden and Copenhagen. Most recently Mr. Rapson's Minneapolis-based company had developed a line of prefabricated modern houses called the Rapson Greenbelt.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Ralph Rapson: his son Rip of Birmingham, Mich., who is president of the Kresge Foundation and Toby, of Minneapolis, who is also an architect and six grandchildren. Mr. Rapson today we thank you.

DOCUMENTARY ON PLIGHT OF NYC "GHOST WORKERS"

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of several journalists with the Queens Courier, a weekly newspaper in New York City, who wrote a four-part series on day laborers titled "Ghost Workers."

Courier staff writers Peter Davis, Noah Rosenberg, and Christina Santucci, with the help of Damian Ghigliotti and Joe Hirsch, documented for 3 months the histories, labor, challenges, and lives of this invisible population. Their excellent reporting gave us a necessary glimpse into the lives of these hard-working men and women and the hardships they face as day laborers.

Through their work these journalists remind us all of the essential role that the local press play in telling the stories often missed in the commotion of cable television and the 24-hour news cycle.

The four-part series by the Queens Courier provided readers with an accurate, relevant, and illuminating window into this important but underground workforce. The series showcased their hopes for a brighter future and the obstacles they encounter, including oftentimes dangerous working conditions. The series noted that a 2003 study found that 63 percent of day workers surveyed said that their bosses did not give them protective clothing or equipment and 12 percent said that they had been injured on a job site at least once in the past year.

It is the stories that they tell which should remind us all of the "facts on the ground"—the stories to inform and inspire our policy and legislative work. The stories that journalists like Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, and their colleagues tell illuminate the very best what journalism can be: informational and inspiring. It can change the world by making seen the invisible, teaching the unknown, and challenging the conventional wisdom.

We all should thank The Queens Courier, their editors, and reporters Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, Ghigliotti, and Hirsch for their incredible work.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of National Public Health Week, I rise today to focus attention on the effects of climate change on the health of the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Scientists from around the world have issued clear warnings that the Earth's temperature is rising as a result of the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity. Climate change negatively affects the environment in a fundamental way. It affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and it contributes to the spread of disease. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, and stronger hurricanes further illustrate the dangers associated with climate change.

Climate change looms large for everyone in our Nation, but it disproportionately impacts our Nation's vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, the poor, and people diagnosed with chronic illness. These populations are not only most vulnerable to adverse health conditions as a result of climate change, they also lack the resources to mitigate the impact of these conditions on their daily lives.

We must act now to prevent dangerous, irreversible warming of our planet and to ensure a promising future for other generations. That is why I have joined as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1081, recognizing the week of April 7, 2008 to April 13, 2008, as "National Public Health Week" and designating the theme of the week as "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance." I have also cosponsored legislation offered by Representative HENRY WAXMAN that seeks to create a national framework for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

I want to congratulate Representative HILDA SOLIS and Representative WAXMAN for putting forward these important bills and for drawing attention to the threat of global climate change on public health.

CONGRATULATING INDIANA STATE SENATOR TRAVIS HOLDMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING-IN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newest member of the Indiana State Senate. The sun has set on the long and proud legacy of one visionary leader, but a new dawn is rising in the Hoosier heartland.

Tomorrow at the Indiana Statehouse, surrounded by family and friends, Travis Holdman will raise his right hand to be sworn in as State Senator for Indiana's 19th District.

After his victory, Holdman said he had no acceptance speech prepared. He simply thanked the caucus and quoted Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with advisors they succeed." I'm sure he will receive a lot of counsel in the months and years ahead as he seeks to serve his constituents.

I've known Travis and his wife Becky for years. He has a wealth of business and political experience that will serve his constituents well.

Travis has been involved with banking for the past 15 years, serving as a bank CEO, bank holding CEO, and chairman of the board. Previously, he spent 6 years as a deputy prosecutor in Wells County.

Travis has served as both chairman and vice chairman of the Wells County GOP for the past 12 years. Most recently he served on the Wells County Council.

Travis and Becky are also leaders in a number of civic and community activities. At the Zanesville United Methodist Church, they volunteer for the UPWARD sports ministry. Travis serves on the board of trustees for Huntington University and has worked with Youth for Christ student ministry.

Travis was the youngest of eight children and grew up in a poor but hard-working family of farmers. He will tell you that his parents instilled in him five core values: traditional family values, conservative political views, "Hoosier common sense," a Judeo-Christian worldview, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, no one will ever fill Senator David Ford's shoes, but Indiana will be well served by Senator Travis Holdman.