

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC ALAMEDA THEATER RESTORATION PROJECT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the historic Art Deco Alameda Theater, in Alameda, California. The theater first opened in 1932 and boasted one of the largest screens in the Bay Area. Designed by the prominent San Francisco architect, Timothy L. Pflueger, the theater opened shortly after another one of Pflueger's historically significant theaters, the Paramount in Oakland, California.

The 2 theaters share many of the same finishes and details. The Alameda Theater building was under private ownership and in continuous operation as a cinema until 1979. It has undergone a number of adverse changes to its interior finishes since that time. The deteriorating theater sat vacant or underutilized until the City of Alameda acquired the property in July 2006 and commenced restoration efforts in November 2006.

The Alameda Theater restoration project is the signature component of a larger downtown revitalization project in the city's Park Street Historic District. A newly built movie Cineplex will be a part of the Alameda Theater complex and all patrons will enter through the historic Art Deco Alameda Theater lobby to access all the screens in the Cineplex.

The Alameda Theater restoration project is a public/private partnership that resulted in the blend of a new theater complex and the saving of a historic treasure in the City of Alameda.

The City will celebrate the reopening of the Alameda Theater at a gala on May 21st and a civic ceremony on May 24th. I am confident theatergoers will appreciate the restored historic Art Deco Alameda Theater and will enjoy the entertainment benefits it will bring for years to come. Congratulations to the city of Alameda and all who had a hand in the development and completion of the historic Alameda Theater Restoration Project.

LOU BRISSIE: A HERO ON THE BASEBALL AND BATTLE FIELDS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From the Savannah Morning News, April 29, 2008.]

(By Nathan Dominitz)

Former major league all-star pitcher Lou Brissie can tell stories about his ballpark encounters with the likes of Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Connie Mack and Satchel Paige.

Monday night and [Tuesday], people are sharing stories about Brissie, Savannah's own living legend for his starring role on the 1947 South Atlantic League championship team.

"We didn't measure speed in those days, but I know he must have thrown close to 100 miles an hour," said longtime friend Bill

Hockenbury, an all-star third baseman on the 1947 Savannah Indians, a Class A affiliate of the then-Philadelphia Athletics. "I'm serious. He just reared back and threw that ball."

Brissie, now 83, might have enough power in his left arm to throw out the first pitch [Tuesday] night at Grayson Stadium, where the Savannah Sand Gnats will retire his No. 3 jersey before the 7 p.m. game against the Hickory Crawdads. The first 1,000 fans receive a replica Brissie jersey T-shirt courtesy of the Philadelphia Athletics Historical Society.

There was a "Lou Brissie Day" scheduled in 2007, but it was rained out, rescheduled and rained out again late last season in Savannah. Brissie didn't think a higher power was sending a message.

"No, he speaks plainer than that," said Brissie, a North Augusta, S.C., resident for the last 30-plus years with his wife, Diana.

The Sand Gnats also organized a banquet in his honor Monday night at the Riverfront Marriott. Again it rained, but thankfully this event was indoors. Attendees received the T-shirt as well as a figurine of Brissie pitching. Brissie's own story is worthy of a movie, and indeed it was re-enacted decades ago for a television program starring former pro athlete Chuck Connors, famous as "The Rifleman." Brissie also is the subject of an ongoing book project.

TRUE GRIT

The dramatic elements are there. A teenage pitching prospect enlists in the U.S. Army during World War II. On a battlefield in Northern Italy in 1944, the corporal nearly has his left leg blown off when an artillery shell lands at his feet.

"I broke an ankle and my feet. My leg was shattered in 30 pieces between the knee and the ankle," said Brissie, who would receive two Purple Heart medals and a Bronze Star during his military service.

Amputation was an option, but Brissie knew that would end hopes of a baseball career. He persuaded doctors to save the leg, and credits a military surgeon, Capt. Wilbur Brubaker, for doing the incredible.

"I was just a guy with a dream," said Brissie, who would spend parts of seven seasons in the majors with the Athletics and Indians, including an appearance in the 1949 All-Star Game. "I think I was just blessed from Day One. There weren't guys who attain the major leagues who were as fortunate and blessed as I was."

Brissie, through 23 surgeries and countless setbacks, would pitch again—eventually for the Philadelphia Athletics, who originally signed him in 1940 and resigned the 6-foot-4, 210-pound lefty in 1946.

He was assigned to Savannah, posting a 23-5 record, 1.91 ERA and SAL record 278 batters in 254 innings. He wore a brace on his left leg, which was about 1½ inches shorter than the right. He also had the admiration of his teammates, who saw his daily routine of playing with a leg that under the bandages "looked like a piece of tissue paper," Hockenbury said.

"He was our hero," recalled Hockenbury, a World War II veteran and one of half a dozen Indians to eventually make it to the big leagues. "He was great. He was our leader. He was our superstar."

HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

Savannah responded, packing Grayson Stadium when Brissie pitched and often when he didn't, Hockenbury said.

"We had great community support," Brissie said. "The fans were just tremendous. We had community business support. I think it was the ideal time after World War II and before television."

The talented team, playing in a league stocked with future major leaguers, had the

unity necessary for success over the long summer months.

"In all of that time, I never heard two guys have a bad word or get upset," Brissie said. "Everybody was for everybody else. It's really one of my greatest memories."

The retiree makes weekly visits to a Veterans Administration hospital and speaks with injured servicemen. He shares motivational stories and asks them not to give up their dreams.

"You've got to live each day and look for something better, and it will show up," he said.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, Friday, March 14, 2008, Wednesday, April 8, 2008 and Monday, April 14, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall votes 133, 146, 169, 170, 171, 172, 183, 184 and 185.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall votes 133, 146, 170, 171, 183, 184 and 185 and "nay" on rollcall votes 169 and 172.

"OPERATION HOLIDAY CHEER"

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, Maine for acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of the children of Maine's military families through their program entitled "Operation Holiday Cheer."

Kiwanis is an organization dedicated to service to children and youth through initiatives intended to improve the quality of life of children in communities around the world. Currently, Kiwanis has over 500,000 members internationally, representing 96 countries with 34 clubs in Maine.

On July 17, 2007, the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, later joined by the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine, launched Operation Holiday Cheer, a program to provide a holiday gift to each participating child of Maine's military families, including, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. Over 9,000 children in Maine have a parent serving in the military.

In executing Operation Holiday Cheer, the Kiwanis organization acquired, wrapped and distributed a holiday gift to each participating military child in over 140 cities and towns throughout the State of Maine. Included with each gift was a hand-written note thanking the child and his or her family which read, "On behalf of the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine and the people of the State of Maine, we would like to offer you this token of our appreciation for your sacrifice. You are the child of a Maine military family and the bravery that you show every day by sharing your parent to help protect our country is being recognized and honored. You should be extremely proud of your

service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season."

I extend my appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in bringing some cheer to the lives of thousands of Maine children whose parents are serving our country. As they seek to expand this program throughout New England and to New York in 2008, I wish them all the best.

RECOGNIZING DENIM DAY IN NJ
2008

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the efforts of the Young Women's Christian Association, YWCA, of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to designate April 28, 2008 as Denim Day in New Jersey. This day-long observance is an important opportunity to raise awareness about sexual violence and end the 'blame-the-victim' mentality about rape that continues to impede justice for those attacked.

Unfortunately, appalling misconceptions about rape and sexual violence still exist and were on full display in the Italian Supreme Court decision that launched International Denim Day in 1998. In that case, the justices overturned a rape conviction because the woman wore jeans. They reasoned that the victim must have helped her attacker remove her jeans because they were "tight," thereby implying her consent. After the decision, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans to work the next day.

Those Italian legislators were right to protest such an awful decision and inspired people around the world to speak out against similar injustices. We must do everything possible as a community and as a Nation of laws to stop rape and sexual assault and help survivors. That includes educating young men and women about consent, making clear that rape is the responsibility of the offender, not the victim, and eliminating the fear of shame and blame that prevents an estimated 9 in 10 rape victims from reporting an attack.

Today, on the first annual Denim Day in NJ, I commend the ongoing efforts of the YWCA of Bergen County Rape Crisis Center to accomplish these goals. I stand united with the YWCA, survivors of sexual assault, and their loved ones in observing this important day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I was absent for legislative business conducted on April 24, 2008, to attend the funeral of a fallen soldier who lost his life in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a result, I missed rollcall votes 220 through 223.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall vote 220—the Poe Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 221—the McNerny Amendment to H.R. 2830;

"Aye" on rollcall vote 222—the Motion to Recommit H.R. 2830 with instructions; and

"Aye" on rollcall vote 223—Passage of H.R. 2830.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DARRELL PAGE
OF BLADEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Darrell Page of Dublin, North Carolina for his 11 years of service as President of Bladen Community College in Bladen County. Dr. Page's leadership, integrity, and insight have made a tremendous difference at this community college and in his community.

Samuel Logan Bringle, the legendary leader in the Salvation Army, once said some very important words that reflect the character and life of Darrell Page. He said, "The final estimate of a man will show that history cares not one iota about the title he has carried or the rank he has borne, but only about the quality of his deeds and the character of his heart." Indeed, Dr. Page has reflected this through his sacrifice and commitment.

During Dr. Page's tenure at the college, many positive developments and advancements have occurred. Student enrollment has more than doubled, total budget at the school has tripled, and the college has achieved Superior Performance status five of the past 6 years. In addition, Bladen Community has become a state leader in distance education. Furthermore, as a devoted husband, father, and friend, Darrell Page has truly been a foundation on which Bladen Community College and Bladen County have continued to thrive. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

In celebrating Dr. Page's upcoming retirement this June, let each of us remember the words of our third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, who said, "To do our fellow man the most good, we must lead where we can, follow where we cannot, and still go with him, always watching for that favorable moment to help him another step forward!"

We thank Darrell, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin, Bladen County, Bladen Community College, and the State of North Carolina, for always looking for that favorable moment and always helping his fellow citizens. May God's strength, joy and peace be with him always.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING NICK
JACKSON FOR WINNING THE
OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

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

Whereas, Nick Jackson was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Nick Jackson 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 Nick Jackson on winning the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

HELEN KOVAK—A JEWEL OF
SOUTHEAST TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a lifelong volunteer and inspiration to the Beaumont community, Helen Kovak.

Mrs. Kovak is a pillar of the Beaumont community, and has a heart the size of Texas. For almost her entire life, she has given to back to the community she holds so dear. Her friends have even described her as, "the best volunteer in the world; always ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done."

Mrs. Kovak has served in a number of areas, one of which is the political arena, where she has been volunteering since the day she could vote. She is responsible for starting one of the first direct mail campaigns, which she carried out from her home, way back when Goldwater was running for office, and she serves as a Precinct Chairman for the Republican Party to this day.

A graduate of the University of Texas, Mrs. Kovak still sports a UT sticker on the back of her VW Beetle. She celebrated her 90th birthday on April 26th, and at a recent party with friends she stressed that people should appreciate what they have and "live each day to the fullest, because you never know when it's gonna end."

I am proud to recognize this gem of Southeast Texas on her 90th birthday. She is a true inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENT
ENGINEERS AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF EVANSVILLE FOR WINNING
NASA'S 15TH ANNUAL GREAT
MOONBUGGY RACE

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the student engineers at the University of Evansville for winning first place in NASA's 15th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race.

The race is held each year to honor the ingenuity and creative problem-solving of the designers of the original lunar rover used during the Apollo Moon missions in the 1970s.

The University of Evansville team defeated 24 teams to win the college division competition. Their moonbuggy completed a half-mile