

Today, Missourians from the ages of 8 to 80 compete in Special Olympics, with an average age around 25. Special Olympics provide year-round sports training and athletics competition for Missouri's children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Missouri currently serves more than 15,000 athletes with mental disabilities, in 19 sports, at 152 competitions throughout Missouri, with 4 statewide competitions, and more than 1,370 of Missouri's finest citizens who serve as volunteer coaches. Special Olympics Missouri athletes have participated in competitions all over the World from Ames, Iowa in our own backyard to Anchorage, Alaska, Toronto, Canada, Dublin, Ireland, Nagano, Japan, and just last year—Shanghai, China.

Through sports, these individuals develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence, and a more positive self-image.

My colleagues know that as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I wholeheartedly believe that sports involvement improves one's health, character, and leadership skills. The Caucus believes in promoting the values of sportsmanship, civility, respect, safety, fun and fitness among the players, coaches, parents, and officials. I am proud to tell you that Special Olympics promotes these same values in its programs and especially in its Healthy Athletes and Unified Sports programs.

In recent years, Special Olympics Missouri has expanded its reach to address health and fitness issues unique to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Healthy Athletes Program provides health screenings in conjunction with competitions.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without mental disabilities (called Partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Throughout the year, in a variety of sports ranging from basketball to golf to figure skating, Unified Sports athletes improve their physical fitness, sharpen their skills, challenge the competition and have fun, too.

The concept of combining athletes with mental disabilities and those without was first introduced in the mid-1980s to provide another level of challenge for higher ability athletes and to promote equality and inclusion. Today, the initiative includes virtually all Special Olympics sports.

Unified Sports enables athletes to:

Learn new sports, develop higher-level sports skills and have new competition experiences;

Experience a sense of meaningful inclusion, as each athlete is ensured of playing a valued role on the team;

Socialize with peers and form friendships (the initiative provides a forum for positive social interaction between teammates and often leads to long-lasting friendships) and;

Participate in their communities and have choices outside of Special Olympics.

In 1997, TIME magazine published a story about a Unified Sports partner from Missouri, Ryan Brimer of Boonville.

The Missouri Police Chiefs Association has been a big supporter of Special Olympics Missouri through its Law Enforcement Torch Run. What began as a 30-mile run is now a four-day relay that covers more than 950 miles and 1,000 runners. Now more than a run, the

Torch Run is a campaign to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics. It originates at 25 different locations around the State of Missouri and ends at the State Summer Games. Nearly 200 agencies and 2,500 officers volunteer all year to make the Torch Run happen. In fact, Missouri's event consistently ranks as one of the top ten fundraising Torch Runs in the world. I am proud of Missouri's law enforcement officers who give of their time for this noble cause.

Special Olympics themes of inclusion, health, sportsmanship, leadership, and fun in sports make the world and Missouri a better place for individuals with and without disabilities. I am proud to congratulate Special Olympics on its years of achievement and I thank Special Olympics on behalf of all Missourians.

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TRIBUTE TO MARGARET  
SULLIVAN WILSON

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of an outstanding citizen and constituent. Margaret Sullivan Wilson of Norwich, Connecticut passed away on Saturday July 12th. I want to take this opportunity to express my condolences and offer my prayers to her family, as well as honor her service to her community.

After graduating from Willimantic State Teachers' College and getting her Masters in Education from the University of Connecticut, Peg Sullivan returned home to Norwich, Connecticut to begin a teaching career. After 44 years of dedicated instruction—from elementary school to college—she retired as an Executive Dean at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she was honored in 2006 by the dedication of the Margaret S. Wilson Child Family Development Complex.

Her retirement from teaching did not end her tireless commitment to helping others. Peg was the President of the Thames Valley Council for Community Action; President of the Connecticut Mental Health Association; founder of Norwich, Connecticut's Head Start program; and in 2004, she founded the Norwich Historical Society. She also served on the Blue Ribbon Commission for the University of Connecticut Health Center, the White House Conference on Children and the National Commission to Reduce Infant Mortality.

She also dedicated herself to the change she believed would help her compatriots. She served on the Norwich Board of Education, the Democratic Town Committee and as a delegate to the 1968 and 1972 Democratic National Conventions.

Her dedication to early childhood education and educational reform of all kinds did not go unnoticed. She was honored by the Norwich Citizen of the Year Award in 1970 and Natchaug Hospital Lifetime Achievement Award in May of this year.

Peg Wilson will live on through the memory of her achievements and the achievements by those she inspired. Peg, we in Congress honor your great service and you will truly be missed.

IN HONOR OF MANUEL SANTANA

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Manuel Santana, Santa Cruz County's 2008 Artist of the Year and beloved contributor to Central Coast art. He sadly passed away July 8, 2008, ten days before he was to present his award-winning work at the Museum of Art & History in Santa Cruz.

Mr. Santana was born on March 31, 1927, to a family of Mexican descent, and began demonstrating his artistic talent in his youth, drawing bugs and collecting comic books. He grew up in Los Angeles, initially pursuing a career as a teacher but later discovering his talent as an artist. After moving to Santa Cruz in 1961, Manuel worked diligently as owner of the restaurants Manuel's in Aptos and Jardines de San Juan in San Juan Bautista, all while caring for his family.

Manuel's art incorporates a deep connection to Mexican traditions, as well as politics and social movements like that of César Chávez. The numerous sculptures, paintings, and acrylics he produced display a vibrant use of colors, which provide new aspects of the pieces with each view.

In addition to art, Mr. Santana was also intimately involved in the community. He founded the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Convocation at the University of California Santa Cruz, served on the University of California's Water Resources Advisory Board and the Board of Directors for the Bear Republic Theatre Company, and was president and lifetime board member of the Cabrillo Music Festival. He also was president of the Central Coast Counties Development Corporation, working to organize and empower farm workers in Monterey County.

Many people were touched by Manny's generous and enlightening spirit, and his passing leaves our community greatly saddened. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend our nation's deep gratitude for Manuel Santana's commitment to his local community. I know I speak for every Member of Congress in offering my condolences to the entire Santana family: his daughter Angelina, son Leonardo, daughter-in-law Patricia, and grandchildren Oliver, Joaquin, and Valentin. California has lost a great citizen, but the legacy he leaves behind is priceless.

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INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
TO ALLOW FOR THE TAX-EXEMPT  
BOND FINANCING FOR  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AIRCRAFT

**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation with my colleague from Washington state, Congresswoman MCMORRIS RODGERS, that amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that