

as he has volunteered time each week to work one-on-one with a DC youth through Horton's Kids. And we have seen his big heart whenever he talks about his first boss on the Hill, the late Rep. Julia Carson, and we have admired his unwavering loyalty to her.

Drew, thank you for your help and dedication. I wish you all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE AND
ELIZABETH GANT

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, residents of Kansas' Third Congressional District, who are retiring after 46 years as music educators in Leawood, Kansas.

In anticipation of a celebration honoring the Gant sisters that will take place on August 10, the Sun newspapers of Johnson County recently published an article detailing their accomplishments and plans for the future, which I am including with this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statement. Having spent a lifetime composing children's music and teaching music to children, they will now focus on composing and promoting their own compositions.

Madam Speaker, I know that all House members join with us in paying tribute to Katherine and Elizabeth Gant, who are beloved by several generations of Johnson Countians for their dedicated and selfless work to bring music into the lives of our children.

GANT SISTERS STOP TEACHING TO FOCUS ON
RECORDING

(By Kelli Bamforth)

After 46 years as music educators to countless children across the metro area, Elizabeth and Katherine Gant are hanging up their hats after the sale of their Leawood music school, 3658 W. 95th St.

But do not expect the sisters to retire. In many ways, their work is just beginning.

Elizabeth and Katherine will now focus on composing and promoting their original children's music beyond Kansas City.

"Schools and churches use our music but we knew we had to start aggressively marketing our music to get it out of Kansas City," Elizabeth said. "We want to get it all over America, but knew we couldn't teach and market simultaneously."

The sisters sold their school two months ago to Cindy See, a pianist with two daughters who are former students of the Gants.

"With the See family, (the school) will continue to be a family affair," Elizabeth said. "They just finished their summer session and will start back up in the fall."

A celebration honoring the Gant sisters will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at Hallbrook Country Club, 11150 Overbrook Road.

Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn will present a proclamation declaring "Gant Sisters Day" in the city and a children's choir will perform with school alumni.

"It all fell into place," Katherine said. "I thought (declaring Gant Sisters Day) was so sweet. Politicians and big important people get things named after them all the time, but for two sister educators. . .they keep telling us there are other things planned, but it's a surprise."

The sisters began what they call a "life-long love affair with music" when their mother inspired them as children.

"She taught us to sing with harmony," Elizabeth said. "She was a working mother but we never felt neglected."

Elizabeth and Katherine attended the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, where they majored in opera and education. When Katherine graduated a year ahead of Elizabeth, Archie Jones, dean of the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, asked Katherine to create a new and different children's music education program.

Elizabeth and Katherine began writing their own children's music and lyrics when they could not find anything suitable for children age 3 to 6 in their program.

"We started writing music to fit the needs of our classes," Elizabeth said. "We saw the need and we always loved children. We like to think we have our finger on the pulse of today's children, the dreams they dream. Our mom always told us the most important people in the world are children."

"We decided to write music for the child in all of us."

The program eventually moved to the Avila University campus for 10 years before being relocated to Leawood's Ranch Mart shopping center.

The sisters have recorded CDs and cassette tapes of their music, and eventually began writing children's books, adaptations of classic fairy tales such as "Pinocchio" and "Little Red Riding Hood."

"We write our own original music for each character," Elizabeth said.

One recording that already has reached audiences across the country is "America, I Love You!" Katherine and Elizabeth re-recorded the children's national anthem after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"That Sunday after 9/11, Katherine and I were at home watching television and Itzhak Perlman, a very talented violinist, was performing in New York near the site," Elizabeth said. "After he was done, he didn't know the camera was still on him, and he just started weeping. And it touched us. . .we knew we had to do something for the children."

Eleven years prior to Sept. 11, the sisters wrote and released the patriotic song, but re-recorded the tune with more than 400 children on the Pembroke Hill School campus. All proceeds from the recording go to two charities in New York for children whose parents lost their lives.

The video and CD have been distributed to all five branches of the military and every public television station in America.

But the music school remained their passion, the sisters said.

Business mostly came from word of mouth, Elizabeth said, and the sisters routinely taught children and grandchildren of former students.

"We've had a beautiful response to our music from children and parents alike," Elizabeth said. "When you put music and children together, beautiful things can happen. We've always had the feeling in our hearts that children and music should come together to bring about peace in the world."

Elizabeth and Katherine, both widowers, live together. Katherine said the past 46 years have been "a dream world of a perfect job."

"It's our passion," Katherine said.

"This wasn't just a whim or a passing fancy," Elizabeth said. "Music is like food, an ongoing necessity the world will always need. We're not trying to launch a rocket from a canoe but from the flagship of everything we've built for 46 years."

RECOGNIZING THE CEDAR STREET
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJ-
ECT OF DENTON, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cedar Street Capital Improvement Project in Denton, Texas. August 20, 2007 marked the beginning of this needed project.

The project was funded by Community Development Block Grants, or CDBGs, which were allocated to the City of Denton by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These important Federal funds have been well utilized to benefit the people of the 26th District of Texas.

For more than 20 years, the City of Denton has set aside CDBG funds to repair and replace public facilities and services in older neighborhoods. The projects are designed to enhance both pedestrian and vehicle access to neighborhoods and downtown and to support basic services such as water and sewer.

The Cedar Street project replaced all water and sewer lines, many of which were over 50 years old. The project also widened sidewalks, making them ADA accessible for the first time in history. Roadside trees, benches, bike racks, and pedestrian amenities were also added. The estimated cost for the project is \$1.2 million, of which \$800,000 came from Community Development Block Grants. This project will help enhance mobility and aesthetics as well as upgrade utility lines on the west side of the Downtown Square.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding improvements being made on Cedar Street, and I thank the Department of Housing and Urban Development for allocating the funds to make it possible. It is my privilege to represent the members of the Community Development Advisory Committee and everyone involved in these worthwhile projects in the 26th District of Texas.

CALLING ON CHINA TO END
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES PRIOR
TO THE OLYMPICS

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my concerns with H. Res. 1370.

I certainly am supportive of many of the provisions of the bill. I am a friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and I continue to voice my displeasure of the treatment of the Tibetan people by the government of the People's Republic of China. The human rights consequences that persist in Tibet have the potential to devastate Tibet and completely abolish any chance of peaceful reconciliation.

I also support efforts to hold repressive governments in Sudan and Burma accountable for their reprehensible treatment of their citizens. It is outrageous that these governments continue to prosper and enjoy support from other