

Rabbi Sholom Stern will receive the Lion of Judah Award for his continued commitment to meaningful Judaic studies. Rabbi Stern's sustained and sturdy efforts help the congregation, community and school flourish. Mrs. Dahari will receive the Etz Chaim Tree of Life Award for her tireless efforts in connection with the Brandeis School, where for over 15 years she has persistently been a guiding light to students and parents alike. Mrs. Dahari's contribution as Publicity Chair has made an especially positive impact on the school as a whole and is proud to be a parent of the school as well. Mr. Fink and Dr. Simons will both receive the L'Dor Va'Dor Parents of the Year Award for their noble commitment to both the Brandeis School's mission and to its student body. From generation to generation, these alumni parents and their families have given selflessly to the school as both Mr. Fink and Dr. Simons are now proud to send their own children to the Brandeis School as well. Mrs. Susan Sachs will receive the Aishet Chayil Award for her determined devotion to both the Brandeis School and its Parent's Association. Mrs. Sachs has certainly been a woman of valor, serving the school in multiple fashions including her work as the Parent's Association President. Mrs. Sachs is also proud to send her children to the Brandeis School. All of these individuals help to foster an environment in which students at the Brandeis School can learn and prosper, toward those efforts they are especially deserving of recognition.

In guiding a student body of 350 students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, these honorees give of their time and abilities to a cause greater than themselves. The education of our youth will forever be a central and vital aspect of our society. Giving to children the opportunity to learn and achieve will continue to encourage our youth to explore their own gifts, talents and abilities in a safe, supportive learning environment. Toward this end, these esteemed individuals have continuously given of themselves in a selfless, fruitful manner.

The work of these honorees is surely inspiring to us all, and I am immensely grateful to them for all that they have accomplished. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for their extensive contributions to society.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND
CHILDREN'S DAY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Sovereignty and Children's Day, an event that is celebrated in the nation of Turkey every April 23rd. While this important holiday traces its origins all the way back to Turkey's capital, Ankara, in 1923, it has gradually taken on tremendous meaning and significance for children throughout the world.

On April 23, 1920, during Turkey's War of Independence, a body of Turkish lawmakers known as the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation for a government that was to be a modern, parliamentary democracy. They drew upon their already

emerging status as a liberal and secular Republic to guide them in the creation of their vision. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and eventual first President of the Republic of Turkey, designated that day as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, in recognition of the important role that children would play in shaping the country's future. Ataturk was the first world leader to take so momentous a step in recognizing the contributions of children to their nation.

In Turkey, National Sovereignty and Children's Day is an official public holiday marked by student celebrations that span the entire week of April 23rd. Children 'govern' Turkey by sending their own 'representatives' to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. The children assume some of the real responsibilities of legislators by signing executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss children's issues. These symbolic gestures demonstrate for children how they are the future leaders of Turkey, and remind current leaders that they are responsible for the well being of these children and the nation that they will inherit.

On April 27, 1986, a tradition that began in Turkey was brought to the entire world when the UN General Assembly was opened to children for the first celebration of World Children's Day. Later that same year, the World Children's Day Foundation (WCDF) was established to oversee World Children's Day activities. The program's goals were to equip children to make a difference in their own lives and the future of their communities and nations; bring children of different nationalities, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds together and to show them that, in spite of these factors, all people have much in common; and establish the fourth Sunday in April as the internationally celebrated World Children's Day to recognize the capability and potential of children everywhere to shape the future.

Madam Speaker, our children are our most precious resource, and I believe we all should join together in commemorating this important date dedicated to them. We also should commend Turkey for leading the way in being the first government to set aside one day each year to honor its children some eighty-six years ago.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
YOUNG MARINES

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Young Marines. I am honored to represent the proud and patriotic City of Waterbury, Connecticut where the first Young Marines Unit was founded in 1959 by members of the Brass City Memorial Detachment of the Marine Corps League. Just three years later, the ranks of Waterbury's Young

Marines had swelled to 1,500 and spread to 9 other cities all because of the fine young men from Waterbury.

In 1974, Waterbury's own Young Marine program was chartered as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League, whose mission is to preserve the traditions and promote the interests of one of our very finest institutions, the United States Marine Corps.

The Young Marines embody our core values as Americans—honesty, fairness, courage, respect, loyalty, and love of country. These principles are instilled on the Young Marines by the steady hand of hundreds of volunteers from communities all over the country, many of whom are former, retired, Active Duty, or Reservist Marines who believe passionately in the values they learned during their service. I can think of no better mentors for these youngsters.

Many of my district's finest and most involved citizens are products of the Young Marines; some went on to join our nation's Armed Forces, others found another way to serve their community. In 1960, a young man named Sam Beamon joined the Young Marines with his brothers. After graduating from high school, he went on to serve honorably in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam. Sam is now active in many veterans' organizations and is the State Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Department of Connecticut.

Since its inception, the Young Marines have sponsored many initiatives to improve their communities. I stand here honored to represent those seminal Young Marines from Waterbury, Connecticut whose organization went on to take a leadership role in the U.S. Marine Youth Drug Demand Reduction Program in 1993. This community-based program sought to reduce the impact of harmful drugs on our communities and encouraged other youths to live a drug-free lifestyle. The values of this program are perfectly aligned with those of the Young Marines, and communities around the country are lucky to have such respected advocates for clean and healthy living.

In 2006, the Young Marines, now a nationally respected organization, conducted the Veterans Appreciation Week campaign, which sought to challenge Young Marines throughout the country to dedicate some of their time to honor our nation's veterans and to demonstrate, through their actions, their sincere appreciation for our veterans' service to our country. In a time when fewer Americans seem to be aware of the sacrifices that our veterans made, I am glad that we can look to the Young Marines to provide leadership on how we should honor those who have served.

Here, on this the 50th Anniversary of this vital and impressive organization, we are reminded of its mission statement: the Young Marines' mission is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurture and develop its members into responsible citizens who enjoy, and promote, a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. On Saturday April 25th, Young Marines and former Young Marines from across the nation came to the organization's birthplace to join several of the members of the Marine Corps League Brass City Memorial Detachment who established the Young Marines. I would like to congratulate Ray Bozzuto, Art Corcoran, Roland Hamel, Tony Szantyr, Ed Zuraitis, and the other founding members on the legacy of patriotism and civic