

1970 as scrap for a mere \$100,000. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident.

After 34 years, the voices of *Liberty's* dead and wounded seamen must finally be heard. Despite the continuing efforts to uncover the real truths about the attack, Martin Luther King Jr., said it best—"History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people."

Although no amount of time can ever erase the memories of that tragic event or bring back those who perished, it is my hope that the wounds of their loved ones have begun to heal.

AAPI HOSTS SUCCESSFUL
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin recently hosted a legislative conference on Capitol Hill, and I was honored to speak to this organization, consisting of proud American doctors who trace their heritage to India. AAPI's members play a critical role in delivering quality health care throughout the U.S. across a broad range of medical specialties.

I heard from AAPI members who discussed the need for health care reform but also shared their concerns about a single-payer system. These physicians told me that while we need reforms, we should never forget that we have the greatest health care system in the world. I agree. We need to find ways to reform health care delivery by cutting costs without compromising the quality of care provided to patients. A system that rations testing, cannot provide the latest pharmaceuticals to patients, and prevents patients from making decisions about their own health care, is a system that moves the power of healthcare from the hands of patients into the hands of government.

That's not what we need in America. I appreciate the advocacy of AAPI on this issue and the difference Indian American doctors make in providing the best health care to their patients every day in our great nation.

CONGRATULATING DARREL JACOBS ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE 2009 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY THE PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Vietnam veteran's service to his fellow veterans while battling his own chronic illness. This year, the Phoenix VA Health Care Systems awarded Darrel Jacobs the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award. This honor recognizes the remarkable way in which Darrel has given back to the same hospital

that has provided him with excellent care since 1972.

Darrell, a former postal clerk for the U.S. Army from 1967–1971, spends 24 hours a week volunteering at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Since he has had diabetes for 37 years and even underwent open-heart surgery at the Phoenix VA Medical Center about seven years ago, Jacobs is able to provide encouragement and assistance to his patients on a personal level.

Darrell provides support for patients in a multitude of ways, specializing in care for veterans with diabetes and heart disease. On days when the diabetes education class is held at the hospital, Darrell arrives at 6:30 a.m. to set everything up, assists veterans with their glucose tests, and is always the last one to leave once the class is over. He also coordinates lunches from the dietary department, works in the cardiology department, and even trains other volunteers.

I commend him for his energetic efforts in giving selflessly to other vets combating disease. Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Darrel Jacobs for his service to our country and his continued dedication to America's veterans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Birchwood School of Cleveland's West Park neighborhood as they celebrate their 25th Anniversary. The school was founded in 1984 by a small group of dedicated parents who wanted to create a haven for learning, quality instruction and character development for their children.

The Birchwood School was first housed in rented space in a church building on Warren Road, beginning with twenty students and three teachers, grades one through eight. The name "Birchwood" was used because of the side street upon which it was located. The name soon took on deeper significance as it was discovered that the Chinese character for the birch tree meant blossoming and soaring upwards.

The school's first principal, Mr. Debelak, consulted with some of the most noteworthy experts in the educational field in his creation of a curriculum that would challenge, instruct and shape the character and intellect of every student. The educational mission and goals of Birchwood School have not wavered throughout the growth of the school: inspire children to set high goals in every endeavor; develop the character of each child to instill a sense of caring, compassion and community; and equip each child with a strong foundation of knowledge and the tools to think critically and creatively. Since 1984, the school has grown to nearly 20 staff members and 117 students, as diverse in background and culture as the City of Cleveland.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the founding members, dedicated staff and parent volunteers of the Birch-

wood School of Cleveland as they celebrate twenty-five years of fostering, enriching and uplifting the minds and hearts of every child who has walked through its doors. Since 1984, 175 students have graduated from Birchwood School, and 323 students have been a part of Birchwood for all or part of their elementary and middle school years. The vision of Birchwood School—providing each child with a quality education and character enrichment, continues to provide significant opportunity and a solid foundation for the future of every student.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY DAVIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marty Davis of Taylorville, Illinois who is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's family.

Marty Davis began his career in 1959 at age sixteen in one of the first McDonald's in the nation located in Des Moines, Iowa. Marty worked as a crew member making hamburgers and French fries just like any other teenager, but Marty continued his career in McDonald's. He worked as a manager in a local store and was eventually promoted to an area supervisor for the local operator in Des Moines. In 1977, Marty was offered the chance to own his own McDonald's franchise and moved to Taylorville. Marty has never looked back and now owns and operates McDonald's franchises in Pana, Vandalia, Shelbyville, and Taylorville, Illinois.

As a small business owner in my congressional district, Marty has not forgotten his community. His local stores are active in many local charitable organizations. His stores traditionally place at the top in the Nation during the local annual Ronald McDonald House Charities "Give a Little Love" heart campaign. This placement is a testament to Marty's willingness to put money back into our communities to help those most in need.

Marty was recently honored by McDonald's when he was able to throw out the first pitch during a game between my beloved St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds on Monday, June 1, 2009. As an avid Cardinal fan like me, this opportunity in honor of his 50 years in the McDonald's family was a wonderful surprise to Marty. While I do not blame him for the Cardinals loss that evening, I sure hope that in a few weeks, I throw much better pitches to the Democrats than Marty delivered that night!

Marty Davis has served Central Illinois as a small businessman, community leader, and my friend, and I wish him a very happy 50th anniversary as a member of the McDonald's Family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
CATHERINE SUTTON-DAWSON

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay

tribute to the life and legacy of an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Catherine Sutton-Dawson. Though we lost Cathy much too early, her lifetime of good work has left an indelible mark on our community.

Cathy dedicated her professional life to helping others. In a career that spanned nearly thirty-five years, she was employed at Yale-New Haven Hospital where she worked in a variety of roles, most recently as an outreach worker in the Maternal Child Health Initiative in the Department of Community Health. Cathy understood the importance of giving back to the community. The Department of Community Health often sponsored a variety of causes and Cathy was always an active and willing participant. From toy collections and Thanksgiving baskets to community initiatives, Cathy was always available to lend a helping hand. She saw these efforts not only as a means to support those in need, but also as a way to promote unity and departmental teambuilding.

Cathy was also an active member of the New Haven community. She believed in supporting causes that would enrich the community. As a member of the Connecticut NAACP, Cathy chaired the health committee which sponsored an annual health fair which reached thousands of local residents and families. She was also deeply involved in the Hill Development Corporation—a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing economic progress and improved quality of life to the urban neighborhoods of New Haven County. These are just two examples of Cathy's outstanding contributions to our community. The myriad of awards and citations that she has been honored with over the years, including Yale-New Haven Hospital's Annual Martin Luther King Dream Builder Award, are a testament to her unique dedication to civic service.

Catherine Sutton-Dawson was a remarkable woman—always greeting you with a smile and open arms. She possessed an enthusiasm that was infectious and a kindness that inspired all of those around her. I consider myself fortunate to have called her my friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to Cathy's husband of twenty years, Tony, her daughter, Toni, grandchildren Frank and Amir as well as her family, friends, and colleagues. Though her loss will be felt throughout the New Haven community, she has left a legacy of compassion and generosity to which we should all strive.

CONGRATULING JOSEPH J. SAVITZ, ESQUIRE, 2009 HONOREE OF TEMPLE ISRAEL OF WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Attorney Joseph J. Savitz, of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, who is being honored by the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel for his many years of leadership and community service.

For more than 50 years, Attorney Savitz has distinguished himself throughout northeastern

Pennsylvania and beyond as a highly skilled practitioner of the law and as a dedicated supporter of worthwhile causes that enriched the region and benefitted countless people.

Born in the Heights section of Wilkes-Barre, Attorney Savitz graduated from G.A.R. High School and went on to further his studies at then Wilkes College from which he graduated in 1948 following three years of military service in the United States Army that included service during World War II in France.

In 1951 he received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. His preceptor was then Attorney Max Rosenn who went on to distinguish himself during decades of service on the federal bench with the United States Third Circuit Court.

Attorney Savitz joined the law firm of Rosenn and Rosenn which, in 1954, became the law firm of Rosenn, Jenkins and Greenwald. It was from that law firm that Attorney Savitz eventually retired as senior partner and still serves as "Of Counsel."

Over the years, Attorney Savitz has served as Pennsylvania Department Commander of the Jewish War Veterans; USA and then National Judge Advocate; trustee of Wilkes University since 1958 (Chair, Board of Trustees, 1975–1978), now a Trustee Emeritus; treasurer and member of the board of John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine; Past President and continuing Director of Temple Israel; Trustee of the Jewish Community Center and a member of all State and Federal Courts.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Attorney Savitz on this noteworthy occasion. His dedication and selfless service to his community is legendary and his leadership and example has inspired countless others to seek his counsel and follow in his footsteps.

Attorney Joseph Savitz has truly improved the quality of life for so many for so long in northeastern Pennsylvania and, in the process, he has earned widespread respect and admiration from his fellow citizens.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FATHER
GERARD JEAN-JUSTE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a dedicated public servant, tireless community activist and one of south Florida's unsung heroes, who passed away on Sunday, May 24, 2009 in Miami, Florida. I will join his countless friends at his homegoing celebration on June 5, 2009 to be held at Miami's Notre Dame Catholic Church.

Father Jean-Juste, a Roman Catholic priest, led a 30-year crusade on behalf of both Haitian Americans and his countrymen in Haiti. In that effort, Jean-Juste walked a fine, tense line between spiritual adviser and political leader. One of south Florida and Haiti's most high-profile advocates, Father Jean-Juste symbolized the resilient and unyielding voice for those who were disenfranchised and bore the brunt of inequality of opportunity. Completely unselfish in his endeavors, he devoted himself as a community-builder and a catalyst par ex-

cellence. The authenticity of his stewardship on our behalf was defined by his utmost consecration to his calling as God's faithful servant, bringing laughter, hope and optimism to hundreds of ordinary folks and countless Haitian immigrants whose lives he deeply touched, never holding anyone at arm's length.

For many years, Father Jean-Juste ranked among the most visible and outspoken advocates for human rights. In the 1980s, he spoke out against the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti, and since then against what he assailed as unfair treatment of Haitians seeking refuge in America. As a remarkable pillar, as well as our community's friend and confidant, he will be an indelible reminder of the noble commitment and awesome power of community service on behalf of the less fortunate. His faith was deep and genuine, and his love for us was real and unforgettable.

Indeed, Father Jean-Juste will be remembered and admired for his tireless, persistent and unwavering efforts on behalf of poor and marginalized people in south Florida. Many of my constituents' family and friends are in need of refuge, compassion and aid. Through his mission to put the cause of Haitian immigrants on the political forefront, Father Jean-Juste serves as the ideal role model for us to mold ourselves after.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Father Gerard Jean-Juste. Father Jean-Juste's life was a triumph and he was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of his life and his interests. I am honored to pay tribute to Father Jean-Juste for his invaluable services and tireless dedication to the south Florida and Haitian community. He will be missed by all who knew him, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEONARD L. BOSWELL

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, I regret missing afternoon and evening votes from the House on June 4th. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 304, 305, 306, 307 and 310, and "nay" on rollcall votes 308 and 309.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DICK
JACOBS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Dick Jacobs, a prominent figure in the Great Cleveland Community and former owner of the Cleveland Indians for 15 years, who died today at the age of 83. His tenure as owner of the Indians not only revitalized the team and their fans, but also the City of Cleveland.