

to bring family tradition and a fine dining experience to their customers. Whether in the original building or the current one built in 1976, they continuously emphasized the importance of serving quality food with the highest level of customer service. And with a unique collection of specialty dining rooms, each having a personality all its own, House of Embers quickly became a staple in the community and continues to attract people from all over Wisconsin and beyond.

After Wally and Barbara finally hung up their aprons in 1998 and set sail for retirement, three of their children purchased the restaurant with the intention of carrying on the Obois family tradition of fine dining. Mark and Mike Obois, graduates of the Culinary Institute of America, and their sister Deb Christensen, proved to be a successful trio as House of Embers ushered in the new millennium. In 2004, the late Dennis Getto, a restaurant critic for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, best characterized the famous Obois family ribs when he wrote, "My first bite told me that this was real barbecue—the hickory smoke had permeated the rib meat and enriched its flavor."

For exceptional longevity and superb originality, I congratulate Wally's House of Embers on a half century of providing a uniquely Wisconsin dining experience. The Obois tradition of fine dining is a symbol of the family's dedication to serving our community not only great food, but also laughter, joy, and a friendly smile. I wish the Oboises and everyone involved the very best and I look forward to many more years of success.

HONORING ELKHART GENERAL  
HOSPITAL ON ITS 100 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Elkhart General Hospital, celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving the good people of Elkhart, Indiana and the surrounding communities.

For 100 years, Elkhart General Hospital has been providing comprehensive medical care to residents of Elkhart, Indiana and the surrounding communities. Its dedicated administrators, medical professionals, and community partners focus on the hospital's vision of "creating a healthier community." Through their recognition that good health requires a holistic approach, the devoted members of the Elkhart General family work diligently to provide healthcare that embraces body, mind, and spirit.

On March 29, 1909, Elkhart General Hospital was officially incorporated. Funds were raised, and a brand new hospital was built and opened to serve the community that same year. In 1953, the hospital had 100 beds and 3,170 operations were performed—twice the national average for a facility that size.

Over the years, Elkhart General has grown with the community it serves. In 1965, it completed a four-story addition, increasing its capacity to 310 beds. In 1980, Computerized Tomography (CT) scan equipment was installed, and the move to increase the hospital's cancer care services was underway.

Today, Elkhart General is an independent, not-for-profit, community-owned healthcare system in the City of Elkhart. The 325 bed hospital serves more than 19,000 patients each month. Its professional medical staff is comprised of 330 physicians representing 30 medical specialties, and over 2,000 dedicated nurses, technical, administrative, and support staff. Together, this team provides a wealth of expert medical care and counseling to residents of this diverse community.

So today, on behalf of the citizens of the Second District, I would like to congratulate the fine medical staff, dedicated administrative personnel, essential support employees, and community volunteers who make Elkhart General Hospital an outstanding resource for complete medical care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, October 22, 2009 and Friday, October 23, 2009.

On Thursday, October 22, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 798 (On ordering the previous question), "no" on rollcall vote No. 799 (on agreeing to H. Res. 846, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 800 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 797), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 801 (on Agreeing to the Broun (GA) Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 802 (on Agreeing to the Kaptur Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 803 (on Agreeing to the Klein (FL) Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 804 (on Agreeing to the Titus Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 805 (on Agreeing to the Heinrich Amendment to H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 806 (on Agreeing to the Himes Amendment to H.R. 3585), "no" on rollcall vote No. 807 (on passage of H.R. 3585), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 808 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 175), "no" on rollcall vote No. 809 (On ordering the previous question on H. Res. 853), "no" on rollcall vote No. 810 (on agreeing to H. Res. 853, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3619), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 811 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 836)

On Friday, October 23, 2009, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 812 (on agreeing to the Kratovil amendment to H.R. 3619), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 813 (on passage of H.R. 3619).

HONORING PASTOR WILLARD L.  
SAUNDERS, JR. AND FIRST LADY  
DELICIA W. SAUNDERS

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Pastor Willard

L. Saunders, Jr. and Delicia W. Saunders for their 15 years of outstanding, dedicated service to the Created For So Much More Worship Center.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, Pastor Saunders earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Frostburg State College and a Masters of Business Administration Degree from Loyola College in Education Administration. He went on to serve as a Vice Principal in the Baltimore City school system.

In 1994, after the passing of his father, the late Willard L. Saunders, Sr., Saunders was appointed Pastor of Created For So Much More Worship Center. Pastor Saunders immediately began to implement the vision he so clearly saw for the Created For So Much More Worship Center. This included expanding the center to allow for over 2,000 congregates, a chapel, and several conference rooms. Expanding the center allowed Pastor and First Lady Saunders to establish several community programs such as General Education Degree and computer training classes, which are offered free of charge to the community. Internationally, Pastor Saunders fathers numerous churches in Uganda and Kenya.

First Lady Saunders works steadfastly with Women of Destiny, a moving force throughout the Created For So Much More Worship Center that encourages women to engage in community activism. Her leadership and devotion to this program is a remarkable example for other women. First Lady Saunders is currently working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree and she is scheduled to graduate in May 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Pastor Willard L. Saunders, Jr. and First Lady Delicia W. Saunders for their unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people in their community. Pastor and First Lady Saunders have set a standard of excellence and deserve the utmost gratitude for their hard work and achievements.

HONORING GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM  
OF MAINE

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 29, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Gifford's Ice Cream of Skowhegan, Maine.

Gifford's Ice Cream recently won the "World's Best Chocolate Ice Cream" award at the World Dairy Expo. This Maine product earned a perfect score and was the only product that did. A few days after winning the Dairy Expo Award, Gifford's was named as a "Best Place to Work" by the Griffin Report on Food Marketing.

Gifford's Ice Cream stands have been Maine landmarks for almost 30 years. In 1980, Gifford's opened its first location in Skowhegan, Maine and has now expanded their business to five locations across the state. Even though they have grown, Gifford's of Maine has never forgotten to give back. Gifford's remains the family owned, community oriented business that it always has been. They have sponsored Maine youth soccer and supported local charities like the Lions Club. Gifford's also donates 10 percent of their profits, company wide, to various organizations

that support healthy and active children's activities.

Gifford's Ice Cream shops also play a key role in supporting other local businesses. Gifford's buys all of its milk and cream from Maine dairy farmers who pledge not to use artificial growth hormones. They also use locally grown products, like Maine wild blueberries and Maine made maple syrup, in many of their great flavors.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Gifford's Ice Cream of Maine on their recent awards and nearly 30 years of successful business.

CELEBRATING THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE NEW NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE AND THE INDUCTION OF FIFTEEN LEGENDS OF STREET BALL TO THE NATIONAL STREET BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launching of the new National Street Basketball Professional League and to also honor my friends and our nation's legends of Street Ball. National Street Basketball Association is a non-profit sports league organization headquartered in New York City. The corporation was established to promote amateur and professional street basketball and provide the highest competition platform of specialized league teams globally.

National Street Basketball Association offers professional basketball athletes (21 & older) who meet NSBA criteria with try-out opportunities to represent one of the statewide professional league member team divisions and compete on a national platform. In addition, the company provides amateur basketball services for youth, such as camps, clinics, tournaments and Life-Skill workshops. The company also devises custom training post and pre-season workouts to prepare athletes for their next level whether professional, college, varsity or AAU basketball.

National Street Basketball Association coordinates with elected officials, district leaders, local community and outreach organizations that support youth in sports. The company also sanctions local, regional and national "Street-ball" tournament organizations worldwide. Beginning the summer of 2009, the NSBA will host "Pro-Ball Classic", an unlimited men's basketball tournament nationwide through which they will select, try-out and establish the first six (6) member teams to represent their city and compete in their professional league. Each tournament city is divided in three (3) divisions, East Coast, West Coast and the Midwest with plans of adding a Men's International Division by 2010 when the league tips off.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I want to salute the 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees to the National Street Basketball Association, our Playground Legends of Street Ball: Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Ernie Brown, Freddy Crawford, Miles Dorch, Howie Evans, Artie

Georges, Leroy Hendricks, Bobby Hunter, Zack Husser, John Isaacs, Floyd Lane, Johnny Matthis, Bob McCullough, Tony Rosa, and Reggie Threat Sr. Congratulations to my all of my friends and role models that grace the courts of our playgrounds and basketball Courts throughout Harlem, New York City, the Nation, the world and in the National Basketball Association (NBA).

For two consecutive weekends in October 2009, the National Street Basketball Association will launch its first nationwide annual fundraiser initiative, "Hoops For Hope." This unique instructional basketball skills clinic will provide for young male and female athletes with the basic fundamentals of basketball, refine those skills already learned, Life-Skill workshops on Drug Prevention, Peer Pressure, Conflict & Resolution and allow for drills and play situations. This initiative will not only educate but rally the support of these youth athletes and further assist the American Cancer Society's efforts to help those suffering from this disease, become fearless and overcome it.

This spectacular event plans to feature guest speakers from the medical field, professional athletes from the NSBA, and district and community leaders in support of raising awareness of Cancer, encourage screening for early detection and promote basketball as an alternative to destructive leisure time activities and way to stay physically fit for life. In addition, the American Cancer Society Teen Challenge will conduct Health Workshops on Tobacco Control and Teen Smoking.

Let me congratulate and recognize Kim Champion, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Street Basketball Association. Kim is a former veteran Sports Executive, President of Creating Athletes For America Inc. with over 20 years of sports marketing and management expertise. She is also the founder of Women of Excellence Awards, Playground Hall of Fame, and the "Pro-Ball" National Basketball Classic tournaments.

Finally, let me also congratulate and recognize Jose Morales, Executive Vice President of the National Street Basketball Association. Jose, a legendary basketball executive in his years of basketball has headed up some of the biggest Street ball leagues on the East Coast, such as Triple Threat/Ron Artest Youth League and the FLAMES and Queensbridge Unlimited Pro-Leagues. He also helped promote and showcase some of NBA's top athletes in the league today including: Ron Artest, Rafer Alston, Lamar Odum, Eric Barkley and other all stars of the hardwood.

INTRODUCING THE CONGRESS 2014 COMMISSION ACT OF 2009

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Congress 2014 Commission Act of 2009. This bill establishes a commission to study and make recommendations on the size of the House of Representatives, the method by which representatives are chosen, and opportunities for greater citizen participation in our democratic process.

The fact of the matter is that the United States is the second least representative de-

mocracy in the world. The House of Representatives has not changed size in 99 years. During those 99 years the United States has added four additional states. During those 99 years the population of the United States has tripled. And yet, during those 99 years, the House has only rarely even considered increasing its size.

The United States prides itself on the success of our democratic experiment, and as the world's first democratic Nation we claim the title of "Leader of the Free World." Unfortunately, when it comes to democratic representation, we are not the leader. Indeed, we are second to last amongst the major democracies. Only India, with a population of almost 1.2 billion people, has a less representative government. Britain, France, Germany, Canada, South Africa, Japan, Australia, Nigeria, Brazil—all these countries have more representative legislatures than the United States.

I am proud to represent almost 700,000 residents of Florida's 23rd Congressional District. I am pleased to devote my time and efforts working here in Washington on their behalf, and I do enjoy the opportunities that I have to connect directly with my constituents back home. But my counterparts in the countries I just mentioned represent far less people than I do, ensuring that their constituents not only have easier access to their representatives but also the ability to develop stronger personal relationships.

Madam Speaker, 99 years is too long to go without making necessary improvements to our democratic process. Enlarging the House of Representatives is an essential step in that direction. An increase in the size of the House will have a profound impact on our political system. The benefits include greater access and personal interaction for our constituents, reduced campaign spending, smaller Congressional districts, and, most importantly, better representation for the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO JEAN RUNYON

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Jean Runyon, someone who helped shape the Sacramento community for more than 50 years. Jean was a dear friend and tremendous advocate of Sacramento. I know that countless people join me as I say goodbye to a truly wonderful person. I ask that my colleagues join with me in remembering a remarkable woman.

Jean was born March 6, 1927, in Concordia Kansas. She was the only child of Rowena Thornberg Hamilton, an actress, and Brutus Kerr Hamilton, a 1920 U.S. decathlon champion and Olympic silver medalist. Her father moved the family to California where he worked for the University of California Berkeley for 32 years as both a track and field coach and athletic director. Her father gave her the limitless energy she was always known for and was the one closest to her heart.

Jean studied drama at the UC Berkeley and wanted to be an actress, but instead of pursuing a career in acting she married S. Mercer