

Sergeant Hoskins received many awards during his service as a United States Marine, including three combat ribbons, three sea service deployment ribbons, an Iraqi Campaign Medal, a Navy Marine Corps Achievement medal, a National Defense Service Medal, a Global War on Terror Service medal, a Good Conduct medal, and a Purple Heart, along with other pending medals, as well as rifle and pistol expert badges.

Known as an unwavering Christian devoted to his wife, his children, his family, and his country, Sergeant Hoskins lived his life with strong moral character, a strong faith, and a strong sense of service. He was loved and respected by those that knew him, and he will not be forgotten.

Sergeant Hoskins is survived by his wife Chandler McRae Hoskins of Paris, Texas, their son Tristen, and a second child due in January; his mother, Michelle Sparks Widner and step-father, Chris Widner; his father, Danny Hoskins; two sisters, Amber Young and Chelsie Hoskins; a brother, Cameron Widner; along with many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Let us all continue to support our troops, and remember that freedom does come at a price. Madam Speaker, I ask those here today to join me in paying tribute to this American patriot, United States Marine Sergeant Jay Michael Hoskins.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC
ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE BOYS
SOCCER TEAM AT ST. FRANCIS
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the many outstanding athletic accomplishments achieved by students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. DeSales High School is in my congressional district, and I am proud to recognize a school that excels in and out of the classroom. Most recently, this fine academic institution won the 2009 Ohio Division II Boys Soccer Team Championship.

As you know, this sort of achievement is earned only through many hours of practice, perspiration and strong commitment. The soccer team, led by Coach Domenic Romanelli finished its remarkable postseason without allowing a single goal. In the championship game, where they beat Bay Village High School 1-0, David Harper scored the lone goal, while keeper Chris Weisgarber finished his accomplished season with yet another shutout. This is the fourth title for the Stallion soccer team, and their first since 1997.

Everyone at DeSales should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes and the standard they have established. Their accomplishments attest to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. It is an honor to represent such a fine group of young people who have a strong dedication to each other, their sport and their academics. I know every member of this championship team will treasure the memories of their remarkable season and I commend them, and the greater DeSales community, for this truly great achievement.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY WITH
THE CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today a proud Chattanooga with the distinct privilege of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the world famous Chattanooga Choo-Choo. As one of the city's oldest and most well-known attractions, the appeal of the Choo-Choo has stood the test of time reaching far beyond the banks of the Tennessee River.

History recalls a bitterly cold winter morning of December 1, 1909, as a crowd of several hundred gathered in the 1400 block of Market Street for the dedication of Chattanooga's "Gateway"—Terminal Station, and the first train pulled into the station that day. At its pinnacle, the depot grew to serve nearly 50 passenger trains a day. Over the years, the Choo-Choo has welcomed many honored guests including three United States Presidents—Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and my political role model, Theodore Roosevelt.

This Terminal Station's place in history was literally recorded by the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1941 in the movie *Sun Valley Serenade*. Over the years, those words, "Pardon me boy . . . is that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo," have actually become more well known than the movie that introduced the Choo-Choo to the world.

Even though the last train stopped on August 11, 1970, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo has thrived as a unique vacation and business gathering complex. As part of the Centennial Celebration, the Chattanooga Choo-Choo will join the prestigious group of Historic Hotels of America as one of HHA's two-hundred plus unique historic properties, hotels and inns across the country. This is a remarkable accomplishment for a facility that was spared the wrecking ball in 1973 by a group of local businessmen. In 1974, it was most appropriately added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Choo-Choo is a great testament to the citizens of Chattanooga who have remained committed to preserving our city's history for future generations to enjoy.

HONORING WILLIAM J. ROGERS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of William J. Rogers of Auburn, ME.

Bill Rogers was a model American. He fought to protect our country, was an advocate for veterans and a leader in his community. Bill was born and grew up in Auburn, Maine. He attended Syracuse University, but his education was cut short when he enlisted in the Navy to fight in World War II. During flight school he was classmates with Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Ted Williams and Boston Red Sox great Johnny Pesky. He was roommates with the latter. Bill Rogers flew F6F Hellcat Fighter planes and Lockheed Ventura Submarine hunters in the pacific theatre.

When he left the military after the war in 1946, his decorations included the Air Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, he became very active in veterans affairs. He was a founding member of American Legion Post 153 in Auburn, where he held several offices at both the local and state levels including adjutant, vice commander and department commander. On the national level, he was Maine's national executive committeeman, a member of the liaison committee to the National Public Relations Commission and national vice commander from 1965 to 1966. In 1976, he was elected national commander of the American Legion, the first national commander from the State of Maine. In his capacity as commander, he met with Panamanian dictator General Omar Torrijos and then testified before a congressional committee on the process of returning the canal back to Panama.

During his tenure as commander, he also met with Presidents Ford and Carter, Mexico's President Lopez Portillo, Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, and President Chieng of the Republic of China. During his year as national commander, he traveled more than 300,000 miles throughout the world representing millions of veterans in all 50 states and 17 countries.

Bill Rogers was a lifelong member of the American Legion, the Army/Navy Club, the Navy League of the U.S., the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a trustee of the Maine Veterans' Home. Bill was named Auburn Maine's Citizen of the Year in 1995. The State of Maine and the American Legion are honoring his memory and hard work by dedicating American Legion Post 153 to him.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring William J. Rogers for his life of dedication and service to his community and his country.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON OF WORTHINGTON
CHRISTIAN'S BOYS SOCCER
TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure I congratulate the members of the Worthington Christian Boys Soccer team as they recently won the Division III State Championship.

The soccer team finished its remarkable season by beating Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy 2-1 when junior midfielder, Trent Smith scored the winning goal in the first overtime. Led by Head Coach Dan Roads, the victory reflects his team's outstanding perseverance as they rebounded from losing in last year's final to win the 2009 championship.

After their winning 2009 season, the school can proudly display their second title in four years. With a history like that, I'm sure the future is bright for this fine soccer program.

This team has set a standard for future Worthington Christian athletes of all sports to strive toward. Everyone at this fine academic institution should be extremely proud of this group of student-athletes, and I'm proud to congratulate this team and join with them in celebrating the history made with their State Championship title.

IN RECOGNITION OF ANN
COUSINEAU

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, Representative GEORGE MILLER, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, and I rise today in honor of Ann Cousineau, director of Solano County Library for the last 15 years. As her colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of her life, we ask all of our colleagues to join us in saluting this outstanding public servant and supporter of free and public libraries.

Transforming a library system that was teetering on the brink of a financial abyss into one of the premier libraries in the state, Ann did this not by "shushing" exuberant voices and library users, but by embracing the need to bring libraries into the 21st Century. Her legacy is a system of eight libraries that are central to lifelong learning in the communities that they serve, and in changing lives every day.

Ann Cousineau's hard work and vision benefit our next generation as well as generations to come. Three new libraries were built during her tenure. These new library buildings, along with renovations of the five existing buildings, are part of a 20-year facilities master plan to build and renovate libraries in the cities served by Solano County Library.

In 1999, Ann Cousineau served as co-chair of the statewide initiative for the successful passage of Proposition 14, a \$350 million statewide library construction bond act. The Fairfield Cordelia Library, which opened in 2006, is one of 45 libraries throughout California that were built with the help of these funds. The next year the California Library Association named her Member of the Year for her achievements in promoting state legislation benefitting libraries.

During her time as director, the Library has developed a telephone assistance center and an award-winning Web site with 24/7 reference services. Streamlined operations, self service functions and a staff trained to handle everything from story-time to computer class are just a few examples of a "new way of doing business" pioneered by Solano County Library and adopted by other libraries throughout California.

Madam Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant. We ask all of our colleagues to join with us in wishing Ann continued success and happiness in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING GILBERT
ALVAREZ

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gilbert Alvarez on the occasion of his retirement from the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center. Mr. Alvarez is being honored by his many colleagues, family and friends for his dedicated career and longtime commitment to the City of Los Angeles.

A resident of Southern California, Gilbert began his career with the City of Los Angeles, at the Department of Recreation and Parks, in the intermittent part-time position of Recreation Assistant. During his eleven years as a part-time employee, he held a myriad of jobs in West Wilshire, El Sereno, Yosemite Pools, served as a supply manager for the Metro Region, and held the positions of Pool Lifeguard and Pool Manager.

On May 23, 1999 he was selected as the first Aquatic Facility Manager in the City and the first supervisor of the newly rebuilt Hansen Dam Aquatic Center.

During Gilbert's tenure as the Manager of the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center, his diligence and oversight of the pool helped detect a leak that would have cost taxpayers millions of dollars had it gone unnoticed.

Furthermore, Mr. Alvarez created the annual Hansen Dam Triathlon, which introduced an activity that has greatly benefitted the community. Among his other achievements during the past thirty-seven years of service to the City of Los Angeles, Gilbert revived the Open Water Junior Lifeguard Program at Hansen Dam and Cabrillo Beach.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gilbert Alvarez a happy and productive retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC
ACHIEVEMENTS OF KIM MY AND
MY LINH LI AT ST. FRANCIS
DESALES HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of two students at St. Francis DeSales High School in Columbus, Ohio. Kim My Li and My Linh Li, who not only are teammates, but sisters, recently won the Ohio Division II State Championship in tennis doubles.

The Li sisters won their championship tennis match in remarkable fashion, playing to a marathon score of 6-2 6-7(7-9), 6-2. This year's tournament was My Linh's first and Kim My's third, and through hours of practice, and true demonstration of teamwork, these sisters were able to end their season on a high note.

This accomplishment attests not only to the sisters' commendable display of commitment, but also to the outstanding athletic department at DeSales High School. I'm proud to congratulate Kim My and My Linh and join with them in celebrating their historic State Championship title!

A TRIBUTE TO MS. JAVANNI
AGARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Javanni Agard, born July 15, 1991 to Valencia Thorne and Darrelle Agard.

Javanni is a graduate of the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice. This small set-

ting has worked to her advantage making it easy to obtain exceptional grades and learn how to be professional in the business world. During her sophomore year of high school, she was given the opportunity to participate in an internship at The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. She worked as an intern for paralegals, assisting them with paperwork, filing, copying and other forms of clerical work. However, this internship opened her eyes to things she had only seen on television. She was able to visit the Supreme Court and view cases, learning what it was like to be a lawyer in the courtroom.

During her junior year of high school, she was assigned to help out in the Red Hook Senior Home and at an organization called Furnish a Future. Taking part in these organizations helped her to understand what it meant to help someone else, that it's not always about self, but helping those in need.

Javanni is a member of Berean Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, where Rev. Dr. Arlee Griffin, Jr. is her Pastor. She participated in the Ministry of Sacred Dance and the Girl Scouts.

Javanni currently attends John Jay College of Criminal Justice as a first year student. During her college experience, she hopes to participate in internships and possibly take part in study abroad. After her success at John Jay, she will attend Law School.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Javanni Agard.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM HAMRA
OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam and June Hamra of Springfield, Missouri. An attorney by professional training, Sam Hamra has been a community and political activist for many years. Sam and June are also philanthropists and civic and community leaders in many worthy causes.

In late October, Sam and June were honored by Wendy's International with the R. David Thomas Founder's Award. The Founder's Award is Wendy's International's highest honor and is presented annually to its outstanding franchisee who best embodies the common-sense business values of Wendy's founder Dave Thomas.

In being honored with Wendy's top franchisee recognition, Hamra and his restaurants were cited for their excellent operations, strong marketing plans, and the value placed on employee development. Another aspect of the award is the support the Hamras give to local civic and charitable activities. In recent years, Hamra has directed the modernization of all 28 restaurants in their Wendy's of Missouri group. Trademarks of Hamra's restaurants are strong management, low employee turnover and increased productivity and store sales. These are not just the restaurant's characteristics, but also reflect the owner's outlook and business acumen.

Sam opened his first Wendy's restaurant on March 15, 1976, in Springfield, Missouri, near the intersection of Sunshine & Campbell. The 206th Wendy's restaurant in the United States,