

HONORING THE SPIRIT OF THE
WHEELIN' TEAM 457

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the members of Wheelin' Team 457, based in North Branch, Michigan. Wheelin' Team 457 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 2003 by current President Ray K. Brown. The primary mission of the group is to assist the physically challenged with outdoor and indoor sports and other recreational activities. The team also engages in an extraordinary community relations campaign to educate the public on disability issues.

In addition to providing a wonderful service to the State of Michigan and the country, Wheelin' Team 457 has been very successful in competitive wheelchair sports. The team is undefeated and has posted a remarkable overall record of 13 wins and zero losses. I think it is fair to say that no matter the sport it is extremely difficult to maintain perfection over an extended time period.

This accomplishment, and the increased popularity of Wheelin' Team 457, has allowed members to expand beyond the sports world and assist people with other activities like fishing, hunting, billiards and archery just to name a few. I want to congratulate Wheelin' Team 457 on reaching this notable achievement and applaud you all for your hard work and dedication to be the best.

Furthermore, I want to commend team for the work they do to help citizens with physical challenges to get their lives "moving" once again. As human beings, we sometimes can fall victim to our own self-sorrow. But Wheelin' Team 457 has made it a priority to help those living with physical disabilities stay motivated. I know this is a constant and a tremendous challenge, but I believe the members of Wheelin' Team 457 are ready to face any obstacle head-on, fulfilling their mission each and every day!

I offer Wheelin' Team 457 my best wishes for 2010! As the Team states on its Web site, "When it comes to adapting, we have many ways to make the task of participation a reality. There is nothing more rewarding than to see someone take part in an activity that they thought was out of their ability."

I echo these words and I urge Wheelin' Team 457 to continue to roll on!

HONORING MAURICE GROSSMAN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Maurice Grossman, one of Tucson's true treasures, who passed away January 21st at the age of 82.

Maurice was beloved by many who knew him, not just for his art but for his dedication to human rights and the Democratic Party.

A retired art professor from the University of Arizona, Maurice Grossman spent his life as a ceramic artist, activist and a leader in the Les-

bian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

Maurice served in the Navy during World War II, before attending Wayne State University in Detroit. After attending and teaching at other universities, he traveled to Japan as a Fulbright scholar, then finally to Tucson to teach.

The founder of the University of Arizona's ceramics program in 1955, Maurice received several prestigious awards during his career, including a National Endowment for the Arts grant in 1986 and the UA's Creative Teaching Award. Maurice's commitment to supporting other artists was unflagging and genuine. He would invariably turn up at openings and contribute his works to galleries, both big and small.

Always the activist, Maurice single-handedly took it upon himself to register people to vote. He felt that it was his duty to make sure that everyone, regardless of background, had a voice. When he retired in 1989, he became more involved in the effort to help fight discrimination against the LGBT community.

Maurice was quoted in a 2004 article as saying, "It's not just about equal rights for us. It's about equal rights for everyone. Do we want to take a step forward or a step back?"

Maurice never stepped back. He was an extraordinary man and a true individual. His role as an activist for equality and human rights will not soon be forgotten.

I was privileged to know Maurice personally. Always enthusiastic, I could count on not only his support but his passion. His dedication to the community was never-ending.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Maurice Grossman and thank him for being a role model for so many of us.

RECOGNIZING THE RELIEF EFFORTS OF DILLARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, for their dedication to helping the people of Haiti in the wake of the 7.0 earthquake of January 12, 2010. Not enough sorrow can be expressed for the people of Haiti and all those affected by this tragic event.

Every day, more information filters in from Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas that begins to shed light on the extent of the catastrophe in Haiti. This earthquake was a horror of epic proportions. It is estimated that over 200,000 Haitians, including hundreds of people from countries around the world, have died. In the aftermath of disaster, there have been numerous aftershocks reaching magnitudes of up to 6.1, and more unrest is expected. For years, Haitians have lived in misery beyond human understanding. Long after the final aftershock, the thousands of Haitians left homeless, injured, and starving will have to rebuild their country from the ground up. It is our moral duty as members of our global community to provide aid to Haiti in its time of great need.

This cry for help has been answered by the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School. They are committed to raising \$5,000 for the people of Haiti through community fundraisers and have already begun a coin drive with great enthusiasm. This is our nation at its finest hour. Seeing communities all across the nation rally around this noble cause is a reminder of the human compassion and dignity that we all share.

My office is proud to support Dillard Elementary School in its efforts, as are many of my constituents and businesses in Florida's 23rd district, including Paradise Bank, The Westside Gazette, and Palm Harbor Prep.

Madam Speaker, the students and staff of Dillard Elementary School are role models for us all. I hope that we will follow their example and dig deep to help the people of Haiti in one of its darkest hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL GRADUATING CLASS OF THE VERDUGO POWER ACADEMY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first graduating class of the Verdugo Power Academy—a partnership between Glendale Community College, The Verdugo Workforce Investment Board and Glendale Water and Power.

The organizations have joined together to establish a new training program for people interested in working in the power industry. The program will address the projected shortage of utility workers in the power utility industry and the challenges in recruiting and retention, and will create a local source to produce qualified job candidates.

This project is funded through a Verdugo Workforce Investment Board grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that has been awarded to Glendale Community College—a prime example of last year's stimulus bill producing a better trained workforce and new jobs.

The first class of students completed their challenging 16-week program and graduated on January 15, 2010. These new graduates now have the opportunity to pursue a well-paying career with a utility.

I offer my congratulations to the graduates and wish them well in their future endeavors. I also offer my thanks and congratulations to the faculty, staff and community leaders who developed the instructional curriculum and provided the facilities, materials, instructional support and technical expertise that made the program a tremendous success.

HONORING DR. BRUCE
BELLINGHAM

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of a great educator and true champion for the arts in eastern Connecticut. Dr. Bruce Bellingham of Coventry,