

House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ann Silberfein and wishing her many, many more years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE AND
WORKS OF HARVEY PEKAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and works of Harvey Pekar. Best known for his work as an underground comic book writer, Mr. Pekar was an artist and critic of many talents. His brilliance touched the lives of many in his native Cleveland home and throughout the world.

In 1976, Mr. Pekar self-published the first issue of what went on to become his most famous comic series: *American Splendor*. In this series, he depicted the trials and tribulations of a mundane working class life in Cleveland. This raw depiction of the modern human condition slowly attracted a readership within the underground comic book scene and peaked with a circulation of 10,000 in the early 1990s. In 2003, his *American Splendor* series was adapted for film, receiving wide critical acclaim.

His artistic and critical talents were reflected in far more than just his defining series. Harvey Pekar was a distinguished essayist, jazz critic, and he collaborated on musical theatre productions.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of the artist Harvey Pekar. Pekar's talent and works are unparalleled in his field. The world has lost a great treasure in his passing. He will be missed by those who knew him and knew of his work, especially his wife Joyce Brabner and his adopted daughter Danielle.

CONGRATULATING 17 AFRICAN NATIONS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Year of Africa—that pivotal year of 1960 when seventeen African nations gained independence from European colonial rule. On this day, in this year, and in the many years to come, we mark this milestone given that, as Americans, we know first-hand how precious freedom truly is, and the heavy price it often takes to attain it.

At the center of our connection to Africa is a simple concept: to be free. What does it mean to be free? For centuries, philosophers, revolutionaries, and politicians alike have debated this very question. While I do not claim to be an expert, I humbly believe that being free means having the freedom to reach one's full potential. Whether that means having the resources to pursue a passion in academia or the support and finances to raise a healthy family, this freedom can mean many things to

many people, and for a lot of us, we were gifted with this freedom from birth.

For many, however, freedom is not a gift, but a goal. In the United States alone, more than thirty-seven million citizens live in poverty and look so far ahead as to the next meal, much less dreams for the distant future. For Africa, the numbers and the situations are even more daunting. In the Republic of Madagascar, one of the first African nations to gain independence in 1960, more than two-thirds of the population lives below the international poverty threshold of \$1.25 a day. Throughout Africa, instability and poverty persist. Between the unprecedented rates for various deadly diseases, the bloody ethnic clashes, languishing economies, and notoriously corrupt government bodies, it is hard to celebrate this "freedom" that they have attained without realizing the long-lasting consequences of Colonial rule and injustice. For these people, in the same countries that celebrated freedom from European powers just decades and years ago, true freedom is still, but a goal.

As policymakers, we work toward fulfilling the promises of our founding fathers and the generations of leaders that have come after them. Their message is simple: to achieve freedom. We must remember today, tomorrow, and for every day of the foreseeable future that while we have come far from our colonial days, there are still many people who have not yet achieved that freedom. We must remember, too, that our Nation was once in the same situation as the many African nations are in today, and that we must support their progress and efforts toward helping their citizens fulfill their potential. While we celebrate this year as a cornerstone of their struggle toward attaining freedom, we must also remember that more change is needed to attain our shared promise.

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor all the World War II veterans, but especially our distinguished guests from the Honor Flight Chicago program. This noble program enables hundreds of Veterans from the Chicago area to come visit the memorial built to honor their great service and courage, and I have the great privilege of welcoming them to Washington DC.

We all have a special appreciation for our veterans because we know the sacrifices they made to protect us and bring peace to a world ravaged by war. These servicemen answered our nation's call during one of its greatest times of need. These brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them our deepest gratitude and thanks for protecting and ensuring our future.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see, hear, recognize and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Joseph Adamczyk; Nicholas Ahrens; Lewis Asher; John Barbino; Edward Barrett; Wil-

liam Bennett; Edward Britton; Raymond Bukentica; Sam Cangelosi; Edwin Chapp; Willard Clauser; Anthony Coorlim; Russell Damisch; Robert Degnegaard; Thomas Dobesh; Thomas Dougherty; William Draver; Clarence Edman; Dominic Errichello; Robert Etchingham;

Glenn Felner; Rollin Flanagan; Ray Ford; Jacob Forney; John Frothingham; Kenneth Gardner; Albert Gilman; Alvin Goodman, Jr.; Charles Goufas; Patricia Graves; Richard Hitzeroth; Don Holwerda; Donald Horton; Charles Hoyert; Michael Hrindak; James Jones; Frank Kania; William Kaske; John Keller; Robert Kelley;

Harry Klich; Herman Kok; Raymond Kriesemint; Anthony Kurek; Lloyd Lawson; George Leavitt; Herschel Leffingwell; Henry Lewandowski; Robert Long; Norman Long; Jerry Lonigro; Hugh Lynch; Henry Malek; Casimer Marks; Robert Marshall; Anthony Matkovich; Edward Melnick; Norbert Melsek; Donald Memenga; Arro Merijohn;

Raymond Mietz; Norman Million; Joseph Mooha; Herbert Morrison; Jack Neistat; Ralph Niles; Berthold Notheisen; Jerry Novak; Oscar Olson; Ralph Raap; Genevieve Rafa; Frank Rafa; George Rinke; James Rosenbaum; Fred Ruben; Henry Rutkowski, Sr.; Charles Sauber; Herman Steagall; William Stowe; Harold Van Houten;

Sander Wallk; Robert Walton; Raymond Wasielewski; Norbert Wayer; Robert Weber; Melton Williams; William Woodrow; Stanley Zajac; James Zajicek; Donald Zentz; Arthur Bauer; John Shubic; and John Sladek.

ON THE SERVICE OF JESSICA I.
MARTINEZ, NATIONAL YOUTH
PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF
UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITI-
ZENS (LULAC)

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding young New Mexican, Jessica Martinez, for her three vigorous years of service as National Youth President for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Ms. Martinez is currently studying Political Science and Spanish in our congressional district at the University of New Mexico, and has served as LULAC's National Youth President since 2007. Throughout her term, she has provided invaluable national advocacy on issues including the DREAM Act, a bill that I was proud to co-sponsor, which would repeal the restriction against granting talented, law-abiding immigrant students from earning educational benefits and pursuing their dreams here in America.

I am also proud that Ms. Martinez helped to bring the National LULAC Convention and Exposition to Albuquerque, bringing thousands of participants from around the nation to our community. With over 80 years of service, LULAC has played an important role in making our nation more equal and just for Latino families. From fighting against the segregation of Latino children in schools during the 1930s, to standing in defense of Latino veterans' dignity during our country's world wars, to working today to ensure that our economic recovery makes a difference for our country's Latino community, LULAC's leadership and work in civil rights has been a vital part of the fabric of America.