

an all-time one-day record of 40,617 attendees for the 2012 Toyota Blue Grass Stakes. During his tenure, Keeneland's auction company's top sales figures included \$11.7 million for Meydan City at the 2006 September Yearling Sale and has amassed more than \$7 billion in total gross sales since 2000. He also led many efforts to update Keeneland with several construction projects, including the completion of a new outdoor walking ring; an enclosure of the first floor of the clubhouse; the renovation of the historic Keeneland Sales Pavilion, the construction of the Keeneland Library and the restoration of Keene Place. For his many contributions to the industry, Nicholson was honored with the Lifetime Service Award from the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, as well as The Jockey Club Gold Medal. In 2004, he was honored by election as a member into the Jockey Club.

Nicholson is a highly active member of his community and has served on the board of the Board of Trustees of UK Healthcare, Urban League, Commerce Lexington Inc., KET Commonwealth Fund, Transylvania University, Shakertown and Central Bank. Nicholson is a husband and father of two, as well as a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Nicholson has served as a remarkable guide for Keeneland as the racetrack president. Through his leadership, wisdom, and outstanding vision, Nicholson has solidified Keeneland's status as an industry leader and treasured Kentucky tradition. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a true leader and visionary and wish him well in his new endeavors, Mr. Nick Nicholson.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S
INDEPENDENCE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the state of Israel, one of our country's great allies, on the 64th anniversary of its independence.

On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Shortly after, President Harry Truman signed the order recognizing this new Jewish State of Israel.

Ever since, the United States and Israel have had an unshakeable relationship, bound together by common interests and shared values.

As the great symbol of democracy in the Middle East, the people of Israel continue to prosper despite the on-going challenges they face.

The Israeli people remain committed to achieving a lasting, long-term peace with their neighbors.

We must continue to support Israel, and to ensure that the peace process moves forward.

Today, I honor our ally and its commitment to democracy and freedom and offer congratulations to the State of Israel on the 64th anniversary of her independence.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST PRES-
BYTERIAN CHURCH OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, known commonly as "First Church," a staple in my Western New York community, is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

First Church of Buffalo is the home of Buffalo's oldest congregation. Founded on February 2, 1812 by missionaries and veterans of the Revolutionary War, the church was the first religious body formed in what was the western frontier of New York State.

Often referred to as the "Mother of All Churches," First Presbyterian Church has served as a place of worship for the diverse communities of downtown Buffalo and Niagara County.

The current church located at One Symphony Circle since 1889, stands today as one of Buffalo's greatest architectural treasures. The building was designed by E.B. Green after land was donated by Mrs. Truman Avery in 1889. It is characterized by its varying historical influences with its overall Roman exterior, Byzantine interior design and Anglican chapel.

For more than two-hundred years, First Presbyterian Church has been a beacon on the West Side of Buffalo and has earned its rightful place in our city's storied history. President Theodore Roosevelt worshipped here when he visited Buffalo, the Visiting Nurses Association started as a mission project here, the Welcome Hall Mission was born at this church, and many outreach programs have found their footing through the churches indelible commitment to Buffalo's community.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday May 20, Western New Yorkers will gather in Symphony Circle to commemorate First Church's bicentennial, joining together with prayer and with fellowship in celebration of this momentous achievement. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and all Western New Yorkers in wishing the leaders, congregants and friends of First Church the very best as they embark upon their second 200 years of service to the people of Buffalo and Western New York.

IN HONOR OF DR. HANIMIREDDY
LAKIREDDY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy on the event of his 70th Birthday.

Dr. Lakireddy is a well known and respected doctor in Merced, California. He is the owner and cardiologist at Merced Heart Associates. He is also a physician and surgeon with University Surgery Center. He became the first cardiologist in Merced in 1984. Dr. Lakireddy earned his medical degree from Oasmania Ganshi Kakatiya Medical College.

Dr. Lakireddy is a major supporter of the tenth University of California campus in

Merced. Along with his wife, Vijaya, he generously gave a one million dollar gift to name the Classroom Auditorium and enabled the campus to enhance the main lecture hall to provide a performance-based venue for campus events. A leader in the medical and East Indian community, Dr. Lakireddy has helped cultivate numerous gifts to the campus. He not only helps the campus through monetary donations, but he lends his support as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Lakireddy has a philanthropic goal to promote the virtue of education in the community. He sponsors a scholarship at Merced High School in honor of his parents. He donated one million dollars to Merced College to establish the Dr. Lakireddy School of Health Sciences which offers vocational certificates, vocational nursing, nurse assistant, emergency medical technology, registered nursing and sports medicine. He was awarded Philanthropist of the Year by the Merced community in 2006.

Dr. Lakireddy not only lends his support to the Merced community but he also continues to help those in Southern India. He has funded several schools, hospitals and a sports complex in two poverty stricken cities, Velvadam and Mylavaram. In addition, Dr. Lakireddy runs a pension program in Velvadam where he promised that "as long as I live, not a single person will go hungry."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Dr. Hanimireddy Lakireddy for his civic engagement and support for the community.

CARLOS LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos Lopez is a 9th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENARY OF
THE BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP
IN WILMETTE, ILLINOIS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í House of Worship is a source of great