

HONORING A.R. "PETE" GURNEY AND THE OPENING OF BUFFALO'S THEATRE SEASON, CURTAIN UP!

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2013*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate playwright A. R. "Pete" Gurney as he returns to his hometown to serve as the 2013 Honorary Chairman of Curtain Up!, the 32nd annual celebration of the opening of Buffalo, New York's professional theatre season.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Mr. Gurney attended Williams College, graduating in 1952. After graduation, he nobly served our country as an officer in the United States Navy, where his writing skills were called into duty as his shows entertained fellow military personnel.

Following his discharge in 1955, he began his studies at Yale School of Drama where he wrote "Love in Buffalo," the first musical ever produced at the school.

A gifted educator, Mr. Gurney shared his talents with students for many years, teaching literature at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Eventually, he moved to New York City to devote himself fully to his writing and the arts.

His first play, "Scenes from American Life," was produced in New York in 1968. In 1970, it received its world premiere at Buffalo's legendary playhouse, Studio Arena Theatre.

The early 80's brought success with his play, "The Dining Room," a comedy of manners influenced by his life on Lincoln Parkway in Buffalo. He continued to explore a wide range of familiar themes including rekindled love, family life, and confronting skeletons in the closet in other works including "The Middle Ages," "The Golden Age," "The Perfect Party," "Another Antigone," "The Cocktail Hour," "The Old Boy," "The Fourth Wall," "A Cheever Evening" and "Sylvia."

"Love Letters," written in 1989, remains Mr. Gurney's most produced play with its two-character cast who sit side by side at a desk. The man and a woman who share their complicated, loving and lasting friendship through 50 years of correspondence has been brought to life by extraordinary actors, including Mr. Gurney himself.

Mr. Gurney is the recipient of a number of awards for his work, earning membership into the American Academy of Arts and Letters as well as the Theatre Hall of Fame.

More recently, several of Mr. Gurney's plays have been produced by the Flea Theater off Broadway where his latest work, "Family Furniture," will appear this fall. His own family includes wife, Molly, four children and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor "Buffalo's own playwright," A. R. Gurney. His authentic voice, crisp observations and creativity have become part of the fabric of the American theatre and we are sincerely grateful to welcome him home as the Honorary Chairman of the 2013 Curtain Up! Celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE LAUNCH OF THE GUAM WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2013*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent launch of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, which was formally established on Sept. 4, 2013. Their mission is to promote the sustainable economic growth and development of women and to help them integrate into leadership positions; to create community awareness of the importance of women in the island's economic, social and cultural platform; to influence legislative policies on issues facing women; and to provide a business environment that pays competitive wages and benefits for women.

This Chamber's board members include some of the most successful business leaders and entrepreneurs in our community, such as its President, Lou A. Leon Guerrero, President and CEO of the Bank of Guam; Vice President Anita Borja Enriquez, D.B.A., Interim Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Guam; Treasurer Antoinette Sanford, President and co-founder of Sanford Technology Group, LLC (STG); and Secretary Denise Mendiola-Hertslet, the Program Coordinator for the Bank of Guam Women in Business Program and the Micro-credit Training Program. Its founding members also include; Siska S. Hutapea, MAI, MRE; Vanessa Williams Ji, Esq.; Jackie Marati; Doyon Ahn Morato; and Dr. Mary Okada, the first woman President and CEO of the Guam Community College.

These women are leading the charge to strengthen our local economy by creating one driven and influenced by the equal participation of women in business, commerce and trade.

I commend President Lou Leon Guerrero and Vice President Anita Borja Enriquez for their leadership of this exciting new organization, and I look forward to working with the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce in the coming years.

HONORING RON E. ARMSTEAD

**HON. CORRINE BROWN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2013*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend on the eve of the 25th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust. Mr. Ron E. Armstead is the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

In addition to being the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB), he is a past consultant for former Secretary Jesse Brown's Veterans Administration's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He has served as Executive Director of the CBCVB since its inception in 1988, first under Rep. CHARLES B. RANGEL (NY-13), a decorated Korean War combat veteran and Dean of the New York Congressional Delegation,

and currently under myself and Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. (GA-02), ranking member of Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies of the Appropriations Committee.

Under his leadership the Veterans Braintrust has expanded from its small core group to become the premiere forum for policy debate between veterans and representatives of government in the country. As well as being a Navy veteran, Mr. Armstead holds a Masters Degree in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a license in social work (LSW) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and is currently on an extended leave of absence from Howard University's School of Social Work Doctoral Program.

Mr. Armstead began his activist career at Boston State College in September 1975, as a campus organizer and later President of Student Government Association. During his time at BSC, he and several classmates incorporated the Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc. as an outgrowth of the Veterans Club on campus. His extensive background includes, but is not limited to issues of homelessness, mental health, social work, youth violence, affordable housing and community development.

I am pleased to honor Mr. Armstead on this, the 25th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREER'S  
BMW MANUFACTURING COMPANY

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2013*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate the BMW Manufacturing Company in Greer, South Carolina, upon their recent achievement. Yesterday, hardworking team members completed a tremendous goal by producing the 2,500,000th car since it's opening nearly twenty years ago. The mineral white metallic BMW X5 is destined for a BMW dealership in San Antonio, Texas, where it will be sold to a very fortunate customer.

Over the years, the BMW facility has proven to be a great success for South Carolina. During my tenure in the South Carolina State Senate, I joined my Upstate colleagues to encourage BMW to build the four million square foot manufacturing facility, employing over 7,000 people in the region and investing billions into the Palmetto State's economy. I was honored to join my colleagues and community leaders from the upstate at the groundbreaking in September 1992. Dozens of parts suppliers are co-located across the Upstate creating thousands of more jobs. The facility launched sales of BMW Z3s, Z4s, X5s, and X6s while adding X3s for worldwide export.

South Carolina now is the leading exporter of cars in the United States. It fulfills the vision of Roger Milliken of Spartanburg who promoted the Jetport of Greenville-Spartanburg, and of Governor Carroll Campbell who worked with legislative leaders Senator Verne Smith of Greenville and Senator John Russell of Spartanburg coordinating with Ports Authority Chairman Bob Royall. All of South Carolina has benefited especially promoting the Port of Charleston.