

she presently serves on the Board of the Michigan Humane Society where she works with public schools in humane educational work.

Madge's most recent endeavor wonderfully melds her concern for the animals that share our world, her focus on involving children in creative efforts, and her background in the Arts. The Madeleine Berman Academy for Humane Education seeks to provide a forum, through innovative educational programs and creative activities, where children can explore and learn to respect the intricate connections between animals and humans.

I know my colleagues join me in celebrating and honoring Madge's admirable endeavors. Her husband, Bill Berman, has been a bright beacon of community involvement and philanthropic work. Together, they have tremendously enriched our communities and the lives of countless children. We know that their work will endure for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICA
IN BLOOM PROGRAM

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution of the America in Bloom program to communities across the nation.

America in Bloom is a national beautification contest that began last year with the participation of four cities across the United States. This unique program helps to foster community involvement, patriotism and civic pride through the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country. The contest is judged on the basis of eight categories, including tidiness, environmental awareness, heritage, urban forestry, landscaped area, floral displays, turf and ground cover areas and, most importantly, community involvement.

This year, the contest will again provide communities with a forum to increase civic pride and community involvement through the challenge of a national evaluation. The program has registered almost thirty communities to date, including Batavia, Illinois, which I am proud to represent.

It is my hope that more communities will take part in this program as it brings together citizens of all ages, municipal governments and local organizations to work collectively for the visual improvement of America's parks, neighborhoods, open spaces and streets. This can only encourage the preservation of our collective heritage and culture while creating a sense of unity and pride among citizens.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND DR. JOHN
L. PRATT, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Dr. John L. Pratt, Sr. in recognition of his 25th Pastoral Anniversary.

Reverend Dr. John L. Pratt, Sr. was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He graduated from Walker-Grant High School and attended Storer College in Harpers Ferry, WVA, where he majored in education. He went on to receive his graduate degree from the Bible Institute and American Divinity School also earning a B.A. Degree and Doctorate of Theology.

When Rev. Dr. Pratt was elected pastor of Zion Shiloh Baptist Church, he told the congregation, "I accept the challenge" and he continues to "accept the challenge" as he remains there to this day. Rev. Dr. Pratt will quickly tell you that his greatest reward is working for the Lord. Among his many accomplishments since arriving at the Church, he has led his congregation to a new church building.

In addition, to his work on behalf of the church, the wider church community has also recognized him. He is a past recording secretary for Progressive National Baptist Convention, past moderator of the New York Missionary Association, member of the Advisory Board of Community Board #2, member of Cumberland Community Board, past Secretary of Moderator's Department of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, member of the Hampton Ministers Conference Board, member of the Fort Greene Support and Rescue Group, Instructor for New York Missionary Baptist Association of Ministers and newly elected President of the Brooklyn Council of Churches and many others.

Rev. Dr. Pratt is married to Mrs. Gertrude Pratt. They are blessed with two sons; Leo C. Pratt and John L. Pratt, Jr.; a daughter in law, Michelle and a loving grandson, Leo Sterling Pratt.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Dr. John L. Pratt, Sr. has been accepting the challenge as the pastor of Zion Shiloh Baptist Church for twenty-five years and is still telling everyone to "Keep Praying, Caring, Loving and . . ." for God answers all prayers. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving this recognition and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man of God.

HONORING TONY J. SIRVELLO ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 2002, Harris County Elections Administrator Tony Sirvello will retire after overseeing the local electoral process for more than two decades. Tony has been a constant in the elections office for a majority of my political career, and I want to congratulate him on a job well done.

Tony has been a life-long resident of Houston. He graduated from St. Thomas High School and then earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Houston. He also served in the United States Army and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

In June 1973, he began to work for Harris County, and in October 1980, he was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Elections. In a time in our nation's history when more and more Americans do not vote, Tony

has taken significant steps to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to vote.

He has had a distinguished career. He has attended every single Texas Secretary of State Seminar for Election Officials since the very first one. He is a member of the Federal Elections Commission Advisory Panel on Election Administration. He is a member of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers. He helped organize South African absentee voting in Houston. He helped organize Russian absentee voting in Houston. And, he was the first election official in the United States to email a ballot to a NASA Astronaut on the space station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring and congratulating Tony J. Sirvello on his retirement. Tony, we wish you well.

TRIBUTE TO THE PHILIPPINE
AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
OF MICHIGAN

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Philippine American community of Michigan, who celebrated the historic unveiling of "Philippine Street", the newly renamed home of the Philippine American Community Center on April 19, 2002.

As Michigan is home to a thriving Philippine American population and Asian American community, we have the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of a fabulous people. They possess a focused vision of their future and will do all they feel is necessary to ensure prosperity.

Today, the United States is enriched by the many Philippine Americans who have made this country their home. As the second largest Asian group in the United States, Philippine Americans are making their mark, serving as actors and novelists, elected officials and boxing champions. They have made major contributions to nearly every facet of American society. The Philippine American community adds to the wonderful diverse American culture by sharing with us their customs, traditions and beliefs.

The renaming of the Northland Park Court as "Philippine Street" attests to the wealth of the culture we have developed here in Michigan. The spirit and enthusiasm of the Philippine American community of Southeastern Michigan has been such an invaluable asset to our great state, and has truly been the driving force in their success.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Philippine American community of Michigan on this landmark day, and I salute them all for their tremendous contributions and support.