

HONORING MARCUS THAMES, THE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER, MISSISSIPPI'S LATEST SPORTS LEGEND

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the exploits of baseball's, and Mississippi's, newest hero, Marcus Thames, rookie outfielder for the New York Yankees.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we Mississippians can speak kindly about New York, as long as it is really about another Mississippian!

On Monday, June 10, Marcus Thames of Louisville, Mississippi, made his Major League Baseball debut against the defending World Champion Arizona Diamondbacks. And whom should he face on the pitchers' mound? None other than Cy Young Award winner, World Series MVP and future Hall of Famer Randy Johnson, that's who! All 6 feet, 10 inches of him!

Did Marcus Thames, this proud Mississippian, crumble under the pressure of the moment? Did he let the sound of almost 50,000 cheering fans get to him? No, of course not, he's from Mississippi. Marcus Thames slugged the first big league pitch he ever saw over the fence for a home run!

This graduate of East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi, is the 82nd player in baseball history to go deep in his first career at-bat, and the 32nd to do it on the first pitch of his career.

But Marcus Thames won't let stardom go to his head. Like all good Mississippi boys, the first thing he did after the big game was to call his mama, Veterin, back home in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Marcus Thames, baseball's newest hero from Louisville, Mississippi. The good people of Louisville and East Central Mississippi already know about him, and no doubt all Americans will become very familiar with the newest Louisville Slugger for years to come.

**ATHLETES UNITED FOR PEACE**

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the Athletes United For Peace (AUP), a nonprofit organization based in Berkeley, California, which is committed to promoting peace, education, friendship, and understanding through programs and events for young people.

AUP is a member of the United Nations Department of Public Information's worldwide team of non-governmental organizations (NGO), and represents the voice of young people throughout the Bay Area counties of Alameda and Contra Costa. Some of the organization's duties as an NGO include attending international conferences; developing programs; and disseminating information on the United Nations' current issues, initiatives and projects to constituents in the Bay Area

through workshops and media projects. AUP regularly conducts media projects in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 1997, AUP established the Digital Technology Academy, a ten-week summer media arts program that trains inner-city young people in the ever-growing field of digital technology with an emphasis on digital video production and multimedia integration. The program was designed by the AUP staff to address the growing concerns and issues surrounding the "Digital Divide" in relation to access and training for disadvantaged youth in the East Bay. The AUP membership association with the United Nations has offered members of the Digital Technology Academy opportunities to engage in interactive teleconference and media presentations to the UN General Assembly.

In 1999, the Contra Costa County's Employment and Human Services Department's Service Integration Program (Martinez) formed a partnership with AUP to conduct the Digital Technology Academy for groups of economically disadvantaged teens from the county's unincorporated and under-served communities of North Richmond and Bay Point. In addition to receiving comprehensive training in the areas of digital camera operation, audio, lighting, script writing and desktop editing, each of the teen participants were required to conduct research on the history of their respective communities. Research performed by the teen groups at the public libraries and local historical societies was refined and developed into scripts for the academy's series of award-winning community history documentary film projects.

The current documentary film "An Exploration of Our History: The Story of East Contra Costa County," was produced during the Summer/Fall of 2001 and competed in the Spring of 2002. The documentary objectively examines the areas history from 1900-1944 from both social and economic perspectives. Presentation of the historical content was conducted through on-camera interviews with several residents and local historians from the Contra Costa County, Pittsburgh and Concord historical societies.

During this period of East Contra Costa County's community history, several events of national prominence occurred. The most notable events include:

(1917) Walnut Creek Land developer Robert N. Burgess received a \$20 million contract from the federal government in Washington, D.C., to build 10 cargo ships for the war effort during World War I. The ships were built at his Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Company located at the deep water port in Bay Point next to the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe trans-continental railroads.

(1942) The United States Army constructs Camp Stoneman military base in Pittsburgh, which served as one of the largest embarkation centers for soldiers preparing for combat during World War II in the Pacific.

(1942) The United States Navy constructs the Naval Ammunition Depot in the town of Port Chicago, where enlisted African American sailors (material handlers) unloaded and loaded ammunition that was transshipped by rail onto cargo ships at the deep-water port facility.

The U.S. Justice Department's Relocation Order in February of 1942 forced hundreds of Italian residents of the East Contra Costa County area to relocate away from the newly built Camp Stoneman military based in Pittsburgh. All Italian residents who were not legal citizens of the United States were labeled "enemy aliens" and deemed a threat to national security by the government.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2002, "An Exploration of Our History: The Story of East Contra Costa County" will be presented at the Ambrose Recreation Center in Bay Point, California. Athletes United For Peace is thankful to Contra Costa County's Service Integration Program and the local historical society for having an opportunity to train young people in digital technology for the purpose of documenting and preserving the community's history through this innovative intergenerational program that blends multimedia integration and education.

**COMMENDING THE KING'S KIDS OF AMERICA**

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the King's Kids of America, Inc. for their outstanding service to our nation and the young people of America. Founded in Suffolk, Virginia in 1989, the King's Kids of America has selflessly worked to develop our youth into well-rounded young adults. The King's Kids of America is a volunteer, non-profit community outreach program for all of America's youth. Their motto is: "striving to make a positive difference."

Unfortunately, the evidence is all around us that our young people today need some extra care and support. Our youth today face challenges and obstacles that I never dreamed about when I was growing up. We know that one caring adult can make a world of difference in the life of a child. The King's Kids of America is committed to making sure that our youth make wholesome decisions that will lead to positive outcomes in their future. America and Virginia need the King's Kids of America now more than ever.

Through the tireless efforts of the King's Kids of America over the years, and its numerous programs dedicated to developing our youth, the world is a better place. I applaud the King's Kids of America's history, and herald its future. I join with the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in thanking the King's Kids of America and all its members for their service, dedication, and contributions to our state.

**THE HEPATITIS C CRISIS**

**HON. BILL PASCHELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 11, 2002*

Mr. PASCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the health care crisis posed by Hepatitis C infection, and to highlight promising news about awareness of the need for