

Alajandra is currently in the fifth grade at P.S. 72 in Brooklyn, New York. She received a second place award in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Alajandra Pena has demonstrated that she is committed to her academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her and her accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
LEANNA MOON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, LeAnna Moon has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, LeAnna Moon has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, LeAnna Moon has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, LeAnna Moon must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Glenford and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating LeAnna Moon as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

HONORING THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA ON THE OCCASION OF HER 300TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 300th Anniversary of the founding of their grand city.

St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great on May 27, 1703, and boasts an illustrious history, impressive architectural achievements, and a rich culture. Under the leadership of Catherine the Great, St. Petersburg became one of the cultural capitals of Europe.

The people of St. Petersburg suffered greatly under the brutal regimes led by Lenin and Stalin. Following the death of Vladimir Lenin and under the iron fist of communism, the city was renamed Leningrad. The city suffered further when during World War II the German Army led the Siege of Leningrad on September 8, 1941. During this 900-day siege, over 600,000 Russian citizens died, but Hitler never prevailed to take over the city due to the valiant defense by its residents.

Indeed, despite the devastation of war and the cruelty of communism, the spirit of the St. Petersburg people persevered. With the crumbling of communism, in 1991 the city reclaimed the name of St. Petersburg.

In 1995 I saw firsthand the beautiful city reflecting the extraordinary culture of the "Ven-

ice of the North." I was hosted by the parents of Maxim Kidalov, who in 1993 as a student at the University of South Carolina was the first Russian page to serve in the Senate of South Carolina. He is now a respected attorney in Washington, DC. Dr. Vladimir Nikolayevich Kidalov and Mrs. Lyudmila Mikhailovna Kidalova were gracious hosts, and they brought to life warm Russian hospitality.

It is fitting now for all Americans to salute the achievements of the people of St. Petersburg and wish Godspeed for its bright future as a valued participant in the democratic family of nations.

TRIBUTE TO JOANNE CARLIN

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, It is my privilege to pay tribute to the life of Joanne Carlin, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, who died on May 14 after a courageous battle against cancer.

Joanne's giving spirit was shaped by her experiences growing up in Cleveland's Tremont area. A product of St. Augustine Catholic School, she eventually moved to Garfield Heights, where she graduated from high school.

Joanne owned and operated a beauty salon on Cleveland's west side. Her former customers praised her as a loyal and generous person.

She later sold her business and moved to Medina County to become a full-time homemaker. An excellent cook, Joanne enriched the lives of her family and friends as the consummate hostess during family gatherings and holidays.

Our hearts go out to her husband and best friend, James; her four stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren; and legions of family and friends who recall the memories of these gatherings and the tremendous influence Joanne had in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MATORY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of an outstanding doctor, educator, and mentor who is on the eve of his retirement as Director of Continuing Medical Education and Professor of Surgery at Howard University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Matory has had a distinguished career as a surgeon and a researcher and is well known in the Washington, D.C. metro area for his contributions to trauma and burn care.

His hospital activities included the directorship of the Emergency Care Area at both the Freedmen's Hospital and Howard University Hospital from 1960 to 1982, at a time when those facilities were the leading hospital emergency systems in Washington, D.C.

During his tenure, Dr. Matory reorganized the ambulatory care system at Howard to

ease emergency care follow-up and to facilitate continuity of patient care. He introduced vascular access as a service in 1970 in preparation for the Howard University Hospital chronic dialysis and renal transplantation programs.

Dr. Matory received the Distinguished Surgeon Award from the Southeastern Surgical Congress in 1998. He has been a Member of the National Academy of Science, and the Robert Wood Johnson Committee which encouraged the establishment of the "911" emergency response system throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Matory also developed the Howard University Family Practice Program, and served as its first chairman from 1970 to 1979; a program in which I had the honor of being a student, and the privilege of being taught and mentored by Dr. Matory, an experience which has shaped my medical and overall career. He was also co-founder of the Physician Assistant Training Program at Howard in 1972.

As an educator, he has been a leader in the continuing medical education of physicians from all over the world, who attend Howard to keep abreast of the ever changing medical landscape. He is a founder of the CME program at Howard, the first in the Washington, D.C. area to be certified by the American Medical Association, the Liaison Council on Continuing Medical Education and currently the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

During his illustrious career, he has also served as Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs at the College of Medicine, Assistant Medical Director for Postgraduate Affairs at Howard University Hospital and Chairman of the Washington, D.C. Board of Medicine.

He has been a member of several medical societies to include the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the American College of Surgeons, the National Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Mr. Speaker, aside from his medical accomplishments, Dr. Matory served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Japan from 1955 to 1957. He has also authored 16 publications and produced 130 surgical and general medical videotapes in continuing medical education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a resounding thank you to Dr. William Earle Matory for his tireless dedication to his community and his inspiration to us all.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE
AND DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST
AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND HER
COLLEAGUES IN BURMA

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn in the strongest possible terms this weekend's violent crackdown on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD). The Nobel Peace Prize winner was concluding a month

long speaking tour in Burma. The NLD won Burma's last democratic election in 1990, however, Burma's military regime has refused to honor the election results. I'm outraged to learn that Ms. Suu Kyi may have been seriously injured and many of her supporters killed.

I want to express my solidarity with the peoples of Burma and their struggle for democracy. As Ronald Reagan once said, "Regimes planted by bayonets do not take root". Now is the time for the United States to express our support for freedom in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, we should immediately move to increase pressure against this despicable regime.

A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS COOPER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dennis Cooper in recognition of his outstanding accomplishment in this year's 75th Precinct Council Spelling Bee competition.

Dennis is currently in the fifth grade at P.S. 306 in Brooklyn, New York. He received a third place award in the spelling bee.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Cooper has demonstrated that he is committed to his academic studies and is an excellent speller. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MELANIE NEWLAND

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Melanie Newland has devoted herself to serving others through her membership in the Girl Scouts; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland has shared her time and talent with the community in which she resides; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Melanie Newland must be commended for the hard work and dedication she put forth in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award;

Therefore, I join with the Girl Scouts, the residents of Kingston and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Melanie Newland as she receives the Girl Scout Gold Award.

COMMENDING BULGARIA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Res-

olution 177 commending the men and women of our Armed Forces, our leaders and our allies for the courage and dedication displayed during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq. Since that fateful day in September 2001 we have been a Nation at war. In one of the few instances in our history when our homeland was directly attacked, our President responded decisively by declaring a global war on terrorism.

That September night while the world watch in horror, the President directed the full power and might of the United States to bring the terrorists to justice and asked for our friends and allies to join us in the war against terrorists. Over 70 nations responded to his call to arms and one, the Republic of Bulgaria, has stood with us since that fateful day, sharing in the dangers and the determination to fight the global war on terrorism.

Since September 11, 2001 the Republic of Bulgaria has acted firmly and convincingly as a friend and a de facto ally of the United States. In the world councils, Bulgaria has supported the NATO decisions to help patrol our skies after the September 11, 2001, and backed the European Union's Plan of Action in support of the United States. As an important non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Republic of Bulgaria has contributed constructively to all of the resolutions to bring the terrorist networks to justice. With Bulgaria's help, UN Resolutions 1386 and 1390 to bring pressure on the Al Qaeda and Taliban networks were quickly passed, thereby cutting off any material aid to the Taliban regime that was providing safe haven for Osama Bin Laden's terrorists and their training camps.

But the Republic of Bulgaria has done more than just support us in international councils. It has come to our assistance both at home and in the theaters of war. Within days of our warning to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Bulgaria granted our air forces blanket overflight rights for any United States aircraft participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. As the tempo of air operations increased, Bulgaria expanded its support to provide a base for our aircraft at Sarafovo. To assist other NATO nations which were providing troops to Operations in Afghanistan, Bulgaria volunteered a security company to the peace-keeping missions in Bosnia and Kosovo. And Bulgaria came to our direct assistance in Operation Enduring Freedom by providing a Decontamination Company to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. That force has been in place constructively working with U.S. and other allied forces since January 2002.

When the issue of Iraqi arose Bulgaria again stood with us both at the United Nations and at the battle front. Bulgaria took an active part in the passage of United Nations Resolution 1441 and has remained committed to the disarming of Iraq. When it became clear that Iraq had no intention of abiding by the United Nations Constraints, Bulgaria acted quickly to once again provide unfettered overflight, temporary basing and transit rights over its territory. Once again U.S. air forces soon found themselves a friendly base at Sarafovo. When the moment of decision arrived, Bulgaria stood steadfast with our determined President and sent a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Company to join our forces in Oper-

ation Iraqi Freedom and help protect them against Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

I wish to point out that the Republic of Bulgaria has conducted itself as a staunch and committed ally to the United States and its support should not go unnoticed by this great deliberative body. So I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing that the Republic of Bulgaria is one of the handful of nations that we are here today commending for having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us in these two campaigns in the global war on terrorists.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WETZEL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual who is a regular visitor to my district. Mark Wetzel, a hitting coach from Omaha, Nebraska, travels to Western Colorado several times a year to work with the baseball team at Delta High School. He has done so for the past four years, and the results have been impressive. The Delta Panthers have raised the team batting average to .424, ranking in the top five in Colorado. Five players are hitting above .500, and confidence is high across the lineup.

Although Mark has played an important role in the team's success, he hasn't played the game since the age of 14. Disease forced him to quit playing, and for years Mark thought he didn't have anything to offer. When his son started playing the game, Mark eventually tried to impact his son's performance, and the results were readily apparent. That led to Mark helping the rest of the team, and before long word got out around Omaha about this hitting coach who could help improve performance when other coaches could not. Players he had never met, including some minor leaguers, began seeking out Mark for advice. Soon he was trading hitting philosophies with baseball legend Tony Gwynn and hitting coaches from the San Diego Padres.

What is so unique about Mark as a coach? Players and coaches say he has the ability to see things other coaches miss. One coach says that while he will concentrate on a problem and not find the cause, Mark will look at the end result and identify what is wrong.

Mark's ability to see things other coaches cannot is not the most unique thing about him, however. Mark is almost completely blind. The disease that caused him to quit playing baseball as a teenager also took away his vision. Yet he will tell you that losing his sight is the best thing that ever happened to him, because it taught him how to outwork others, stay positive, and be tenacious. It also has made him an inspiration to others, including the baseball team at Delta High School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Mark Wetzel today by telling his amazing story to this Congress. He is a true asset to the Panthers baseball team, and I congratulate him on his success, commend him for his inspiring example, and thank him for his contribution to the youth of Delta, Colorado.