

In 1965, one year after its establishment, the town experienced major growth and development, becoming home to more than 500 residents in its first year. A civic center, recreational facilities, schools, stores, and restaurants quickly followed. This expansion continued during subsequent decades, and today Crofton is a thriving community with more than 30,000 residents.

Crofton prides itself on the fact that it has experienced economic growth while retaining its safe, family-oriented, and close-knit roots. Residents today still enjoy the amenities that originally attracted them—tree-lined streets, suburban environment and convenience to two major cities.

Crofton's 40th anniversary celebration features children's activities, concerts, athletic events, banquets, and parades. The events began in April and will continue through the end of November. Local businesses, sports teams, armed forces, and firemen are all participating in these events.

I hope my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in commemorating this milestone in Crofton history, as we celebrate 40 years of this dynamic Maryland community.

HONORING MR. JEFFERY J. DAAR

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in saluting Mr. Jeffery J. Daar, Chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley, who is being honored on August 14 by the Sherman Oaks Democratic Club. Jeffery is a remarkable man with many accomplishments in both politics and law.

Since founding his own professional law firm 22 years ago, Jeffery has handled cases that are both highly complex and in the public interest. As a specialist in complex litigation, he represented California municipalities in 5 years of insurance insolvency court proceedings, resulting in a legislative amendment to the California Insurance Code. He has led important consumer class action cases that have reached the highest courts in California, and has authored several influential publications covering varied topics from the insurance industry to election law. He is a leader in his field.

Jeffery was born and raised in Los Angeles. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Claremont Men's College and his Juris Doctorate in 1982 from University of California Davis. His strong interest in politics was first evident during his college years when he served as President of the Student Democratic Coalition, a statewide organization of more than 20 college Democratic Clubs.

Jeffery has taken an active part in his community's school system, serving as an elected member of the managing councils of both Dearborn Elementary School and Holmes Middle School. He also serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of The Zacaries Foundation, a nonprofit education foundation. In addition, he helps promote our community through his work as a Member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jeffery is married and has four children.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting Jeffery J. Daar for his impressive career and dedication to the people of California and to congratulate him on earning the Democratic Volunteer of the Year Award.

A TRIBUTE TO BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTH ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important group of individuals whose hard work and dedication has made a tremendous impact on the lives of numerous children throughout North Alabama.

For over twenty years, the Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama has provided hundreds of children with a positive influence and a strong foundation to help guide them through adolescence. Every volunteer does a great deal to improve the quality of life of these children and to help them develop goals and aspirations of their own. For its hard work and continued commitment, Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama is recognized nationally for its performance as one of the best agencies in the country.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 100th year of the national Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and on August 14th, a reunion and centennial picnic was held in Huntsville. This picnic was an opportunity for everyone involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters to come together, trade success stories, and relive the times each volunteer and child has had together.

Mr. Speaker, I've always believed that our children should have an opportunity to succeed and be an active participant in our communities. I'm pleased that there are a large number of individuals who are committed to helping less fortunate children in our area. I rise today to commend each and every person who is involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters and join in their centennial celebration.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATIONAL MARINA DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 647, which expresses Congress's support of the goals of National Marina Day.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Marshall Funk of Marinas International for his work with Pier 121 Marina on Lake Lewisville, Scott's Landing Marina and Silver Lake Marina in Grapevine, and Twin Coves Marina in Flower Mound, located in my Congressional District.

National Marina Day will be celebrated this year on August 14. This annual celebration promotes the United States' marinas and recognizes the importance of marinas across the country. National Marina Day focuses on two

central themes: the important role that marinas play as family-friendly and environmentally-friendly gateways to the water.

There are more than 12,000 marinas nationwide, which employ over 140,000 people. Marinas provide the public with a safe way to enjoy outdoor activities like sailing, cruising, and fishing.

I've spent many enjoyable hours boating with my family and, as a member of the Congressional Boating Caucus, I am glad to support House Resolution 647.

RECOGNIZING MR. BILL GARRETT OF EL CAJON, CA

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Garrett of El Cajon, CA and his commitment and accomplishments for his community, his family and his country. He began by preparing himself with the finest education by earning a Masters Degree in Public Administration with specialty in personnel and labor relations from California State University, Fullerton. He also earned a Masters in Science in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from the University of Washington.

Bill has a history of public service that began with his commitment to his country when he joined the United States Army. After his military commitment, Bill worked as an urban planning consultant in Arizona and California before becoming City Manager of the City of Corona. In 1996, Bill became the City Manager of El Cajon and brought a "can do" attitude to every department.

For the past eight years, Bill Garrett has played an integral role in the shaping of El Cajon and the surrounding communities. His efforts with the downtown corridor, the expansion of housing rehabilitation and his role in assisting first time home buyers are well-known. His strong belief that the employees of El Cajon are its greatest resource has caused the city to excel far beyond expectations. His obedience to the dictates of his council and the elected mayor has created a team effort second to none.

Bill Garrett is highly respected by his peers from around the nation but his greatest satisfaction comes from the accolade and respect from his fellow employees for the City of El Cajon. He has nurtured, trained, educated, and assisted his fellow employees through the good and tough times. He has also shared his insight and knowledge with the California City Management Foundation, the International City Management Association, the San Diego City-County Managers Association and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials.

In addition, Bill is a vital player as President of the Cuyamaca College Foundation Board, a member and past President of the El Cajon Rotary Club, Secretary of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College District Auxiliary, founding member of El Cajon Sister Cities Committee and President of the El Cajon Historical Society.

Bill Garrett has allowed his experience to lead him into great service for his community,