

sure that the Friends of Charlton Garden would agree that we can build no monument large or grand enough to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. The closest we can come to repaying these soldiers is to work to ensure that the world knows war no more. As idealistic and impossible as it may seem it is what their souls cry out for. So, Mr. Speaker, it is what I will continue to work for and it is what I ask my colleagues to work for. Surely, there can be no greater monument to our soldiers than peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER
DOROTHY STANG

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 89, legislation to honor a truly distinguished native of the city of Dayton, which I represent in Congress, Sister Dorothy Stang.

Sister Stang was brutally murdered in Brazil on February 12. She was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, and had moved to the Amazon region of Brazil 22 years ago to help impoverished families in the Amazon learn how to engage in sustainable farming, and help them in their struggle for land rights. It was while she was working for the poor that she was murdered. It was as Sister Stang was traveling to a meeting of impoverished farmers that two gunmen approached her. Sister Stang read from the Bible to the gunmen, who nevertheless shot her several times.

Sister Stang's commitment to the poor, her quest for fair treatment of those who felt they did not have a voice, and her belief in the power of faith serve as an example from which we all can draw valuable lessons. It is fitting that the House of Representatives will vote today to draw the attention of the Congress and our Nation to the life of this selfless and inspirational woman.

HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF
ROBERT HEDGER

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send the Congress's birthday wishes to Robert Hedger on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration. Father to Matthew, Sarah, Adam, Douglas and Stephen—a valuable member of my personal staff—and grandfather to Allison, Jonathon, Samuel, Kristina and Sarah, Robert has brought a wonderful family into this world. I offer my best wishes for continued good health and good fortune for he and his family and for many more gatherings such as that which he will hold this Memorial Day weekend when he will be surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Corea, Maine.

HONORING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (NFIA)

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise on the House floor this evening to highlight the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA). NFIA is an umbrella organization for over 200 associations, all of which represent the 2.2 million Americans of Indian origin.

Since the establishment of NFIA in 1980, the organization has served the Indian American community at the local, State and national level, by protecting the basic civil rights of Indian Americans and by promoting their rich cultural heritage. NFIA is a secular organization that accepts membership from all Indian Americans, irrespective of religious, regional, ethnic, professional or political affiliation. In addition to representing and encouraging political participation by Indian Americans, NFIA is also active in promoting strong relations between the United States and India.

NFIA is very active in the area of raising funds for natural disasters, both in the U.S. and India, and has funded many charitable projects. NFIA holds biennial conventions in various parts of the country to discuss, deliberate, and debate the contemporary issues facing the community. Lastly, NFIA conducts annual receptions on Capitol Hill in an effort to strengthen long-lasting relationships with Members of the House and Senate and to advance its agenda on behalf of Indian Americans and U.S.-India relations.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) for its dedicated service.

BAKASSI PENINSULA

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a situation that has been brought to my attention. An October 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice affirmed that the disputed Bakassi Peninsula belongs to The Republic of Cameroon. I urge the nations of Cameroon and Nigeria to act in accordance with this ruling and move expeditiously to withdraw Nigerian troops and delineate the final border. Continued talks between the two parties are greatly encouraged, and it is my hope they will lead to an effective resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE NAPERVILLE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Naperville Baseball Associa-

tion on its 50th anniversary and to thank its members for their enduring commitment to youth athletics throughout the Naperville community.

The Naperville Baseball Association is an institution that, for a half-century, has provided local children with a fun, safe way to play organized baseball. The association will be honored as part of "Naperville Baseball Day" on June 3, celebrating "baseball at its best for the past 50 years."

As a mother and a grandmother, I fondly recall my days of shepherding kids to and from various youth sporting events in my station wagon. As a former youth soccer coach, I remember trying to balance winning while ensuring that all the kids got a chance to play and have fun.

Each year as spring rolls around, kids across America grow excited with anticipation for baseball season. They come to the field hoping to emulate their big league idols, while their parents line the stands, anxious to see their son morph into the next Mickey Mantle or Ernie Banks, slamming the ball out of the park. After games, parents and kids, coaches and teammates, all congratulate one another and often celebrate over pizza or heaping scoops of ice cream. Mr. Speaker, this is youth baseball at its very best.

As our national pastime, baseball holds a special place in the hearts of so many Americans. For generations, families have bonded over hot dogs and Cracker Jack at Wrigley Field, Comiskey Park, and other legendary cathedrals of summer. But as vital as these familial baseball bonds are to encouraging a love of the game, organized baseball also remains an excellent resource for teaching invaluable life skills like teamwork, friendship, and sportsmanship.

The Naperville Baseball Association has promoted this vision of pure, timeless baseball for more than 50,000 children over its 50-year history. I am proud to add my voice to the many who wish to say thanks, and I am confident they will keep up the good work for at least another 50 years.

HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 21ST ANNUAL PROSECUTORS' OFFICE AWARDS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards. These remarkable individuals have helped build a safer community through their faithfulness and perseverance while on duty. The following are this year's awards and recipients.

A Commendation for Valor is awarded to an officer for an extraordinary act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, while in actual combat with an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Valor will be awarded to the following people: Officer Shay Sampson; Officer Melva Moss; Officer Buddy Camp.

A Commendation for Heroism is awarded to an officer for an act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life, or the futile attempt to save a life. A Commendation for Heroism may also be awarded to an officer who