

highest community health leadership honor for mobilizing sweatshop workers and Lower Manhattan victims of 9/11 to seek improved access to benefits and quality health services as part of a larger effort to gain control of their lives.

Ms. Lum is one of 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award.

While growing up in California, Lum observed the hardships suffered by her father and other relatives as they put in long hours as "houseboys," busboys and garment workers. During a stint in the Manhattan Borough President's office in the early 1990s, she volunteered as an English teacher for Chinese immigrants and was inspired by the impact of workers organizing to improve conditions.

Ms. Lum founded the National Mobilization Against SweatShops (NMASS) to harness the power of worker campaigns to create healthier workplaces and communities. She works primarily with Latina, Afro-Caribbean, Polish and African American women and men. In one project, she is targeting injured workers' access to benefits and medical treatment, campaigning to overhaul the Workers' Compensation system. In addition, she is calling for an end to "forced overtime" and other unfair practices, to prevent injuries among more workers.

A testament to Ms. Lum's work is a statement from a Polish immigrant who suffered chemical injuries as an asbestos worker and received assistance from Ms. Lum's organization: "I joined NMASS after being denied my Workers' Compensation benefits numerous times. I was alone and felt powerless, with no money or health care. JoAnn not only assisted me to get needed medical treatment, but has opened my eyes to how disabled workers like myself can join together to advocate for fair health benefits."

Another NMASS initiative launched by Lum, called "Beyond Ground Zero," is a coalition of public health advocates, doctors, clergy and community groups that came together in response to the health crisis among Lower Manhattan's poor population following 9/11.

The coalition compelled private entities to create disaster health insurance for individuals working in Lower Manhattan whose health and income were damaged by 9/11. And in Partnership with Bellevue Hospital, the coalition started a treatment and documentation program for respiratory problems and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms experienced by victims who were largely ignored by other relief efforts.

More than 3,000 people attended two Lower Manhattan town hall meetings organized by Ms. Lum. Ultimately, her coalition assisted 10,000 poor families in accessing medical coverage and treatment or disaster relief. Ms. Lum's coalition continues to advocate for public and private support for programs that address the longterm health needs of the working poor in Lower Manhattan.

"JoAnn is gifted with the ability to create a movement where the people who must speak for themselves are the center of the work," said one of Lum's nominators.

The Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program distributes \$1.2 million each year to innovators who have creatively surmounted obstacles to meet the challenges of providing health care and social services to the underserved members of their

communities. Ms. Lum and this year's other winners will be honored at a June event in Washington, D.C. She will receive \$105,000 to apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Lum was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Lum is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Lum is more than worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING THE 2005 GRADUATES
FROM GLOUCESTER COUNTY
COLLEGE AND GLOUCESTER
COUNTY INSTITUTE OF TECH-
NOLOGY GED PROGRAMS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recent graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED programs. These students have now completed their high school education and earned their diplomas. I commend them for their dedication and hard work, and hope that their education will not end here. Education is a lifelong goal, one that serves to promote the betterment of the individual, and of society. I ask them to read the newspaper; read a novel; write poetry; study current events; talk to friends and family about the issues of the day. Their graduation today is a starting point from which they can grow and learn, and I wish these students all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the 2005 graduates from the Gloucester County College and Gloucester County Institute of Technology GED Programs:

Anello, Sharon; Bacho, Maria; Booker, Tara Lynn; Boychuck, Laura; Byerly, Kimberly; Childers, Jayne; Conroy, Joseph; Conroy, Margaret; Cook, Christoffer; Cooper, Kimberly; Davis, Damien; D'Costa, Stuart; Devine, Debra; Dobleman, Erik; Doty, Jason; Dozier, Jarrid; Fink, Trisha; Flynn, Tenaya; Ganley, Heather; Goffney, Robert; Gonzalez, Kara and Hale, Michelle.

Hamill, Leah; Harper, Nicole; Harrison, Doreen; Herron, Kimesha; Hilliard, Shawahn; Houseberg, Joyce; James, Shadee; Johnson, Khanyeen; Justis, Helen E.; Karas, Anthony; Karnuk, Christopher J.; Kenyon, Ashley; Kevenaar, Krystle; Lane, Terri; Laramore, Anthony; Livingston, Jason; Long, Todd; Lowe, Bryan; Luongo, Christina; Luton, Karen; McCaughan, Michael; McCloskey, Jeannie and Merideth, Heather.

Moodhard, Shanna; Morrow, Heather; Nickel, James; Paris, David; Patel, Nick; Pettit, Christopher; Pogue, Jason; Quann, Tuana; Rivera, Marielisa; Roundtree, Ajirde; Scolpino, Rachel; Scott, Brittney; Scott, Dante; Seltzer, Christopher; Serock, Christie; Siewert, Jerry; Snyder, Eric; Stepp,

Ashley; Uebele, Evan; Velazquez, Flor; Verdinelli, Robert; Williams, Renee and Wilson, Meya.

RECOGNIZING JESSE WEST FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jesse West of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jesse achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on August 4, 2004.

Jesse has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Jesse has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jesse designed and landscaped a "Welcome to Weston" sign at the edge of the school property.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jesse West for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. JESSE
R. BAXTER, JR.

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Mr. and Mrs. Jesse R. Baxter, Jr. J.R. Baxter, Jr., was born in Lebanon, Alabama on December 8, 1887. Clarice Howard was later born in Henagar, Alabama on October 1, 1897. The two married on June 23, 1918. They shared a commitment to faith and a love for music. Along with V.O. Stamps they founded Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company, in 1926. As devoted Christians, they committed their lives to furthering the gospel by setting it to music. Stamps-Baxter Music & Printing Company has played a crucial role in the promotion of gospel music worldwide. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter passed away in January 1959 and May 1972, respectively. However, their contributions to the composition, publishing, and distribution of gospel music are greatly appreciated and will benefit many generations to come. The Baxters were loved and respected by many and leave a legacy of service and humility. It is an honor to know that Mr. and Mrs. Baxter were both born and raised in DeKalb County, Alabama, which I have the privilege of representing as part of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.