

Today, I want to recognize and congratulate Doug and Heather Hutchens. Their commitment to their pro-life and conservative views on life has made them the proud parents of three beautiful boys, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE WORK OF WYCLEF JEAN AND HERMAN MENDOZA IN STRENGTHENING DOMINICAN/HAITIAN RELATIONS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the humanitarian efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Mendoza in addressing the needs of the Dominican and Haitian communities through their newly formed organization, "One Voice" in a much needed effort to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point, New York nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

"One Voice" is geared toward uniting Dominicans and Haitians through mutual support and aid. Its design is to encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home.

Relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been fractious for generations. Haiti—a prosperous French colony known as St. Domingue in the 17th century and later, the first black republic—annexed the Dominican Republic (when it was known as Santo Domingo) in the 19th century. Haiti ruled all of Hispaniola from 1822 to 1844, when forces led by Juan Pablo Duarte established the Dominican Republic as an independent state.

Other conflicts between the two countries have fueled mutual distrust. In 1937, under orders from President Rafael Trujillo, Dominican soldiers killed close to 30,000 Haitian sugar cane workers along the border. These events occurred in a matter of weeks for various reasons but mainly because the skin of the Haitians was a few shades darker than that of the Dominicans.

The historical events surrounding the Dominican/Haitian relationship have continued to divide the Dominican Republic and Haiti so deeply that there may as well be an ocean not only around them but between them.

The tenuousness of the Dominican/Haitian relationship remains, but the efforts of Mr. Wyclef Jean and Herman Menendez are an important first step in developing a mutual understanding between the two nations.

I applaud their leadership on this issue and am pleased with their commitment to giving back to their communities in an effort to ease long seated resentment and unify the island and its people to achieve political, social, and economic development that will benefit the people of both nations.

[From Newsday, July 3, 2005]

HAITIANS, DOMINICANS JOIN VOICES TO HELP

A popular Haitian-American entertainer and a Dominican-American have joined forces to create goodwill between Haitians and Dominicans on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

Hip-hop musician Wyclef Jean, founder of Yele Haiti, a nonpolitical, nonprofit foundation that provides education and other opportunities for children in his impoverished nation, is working with Herman Mendoza, co-founder and director of operations for Stepping Stones Ministries, a College Point nonprofit organization that provides humanitarian aid to countries hit by disasters and funds programs for troubled youth.

Jean said the movement he and Mendoza started, called One Voice, "will encourage Dominicans in the U.S. to help Haitians in Haiti, and Haitians in the U.S. to help Dominicans back home. This never happens," he said. "Believe me."

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Jean pointed to striking disparities between Haitians and Dominicans. He said in his country—which has been wracked by coups and invasions and is now the poorest nation in the hemisphere—most Haitians live on less than \$1 a day; unemployment is close to 80 percent; more than 50 percent of the people are illiterate. In contrast, he said, there is 15 percent unemployment in the Dominican Republic and 15 percent of the population is illiterate.

Mendoza said he did not notice tension during a recent visit to his homeland, but he said numerous Haitians are there looking for work and are subject to checks by immigration officials. "As far as Dominicans embracing Haiti, I don't see a problem," Mendoza said. "We want to work out our differences socially, politically and economically. People will see there's no bias."

One Voice is reaching out for medical and educational supplies for needy areas of both countries, sections of which were devastated by floods last year. Jean and Mendoza are asking the public to share some of what's in their medicine cabinets. They are collecting items for babies and adults, such as disinfectant and toothpaste, plus pens, crayons and notebooks, among other things.

"Numerous humanitarian service organizations as well as entertainment and music celebrities have pledged their support of this drive," Jean said. "If each family puts together one kit, it can mean so much to our countries."

A service that Stepping Stones Ministries sponsored on April 15 in Washington Heights—home to many Dominicans in New York—raised \$1,000 to support the cause. A similar service is scheduled for July 30 at the True Worship Church in the East New York section of Brooklyn.

One Voice hopes to help children in both countries fulfill their dreams.

"Despite what history tells them about the conflicts between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, we want them to know they are one," said Jean. "Our project is set up to

show them that at least Dominicans and Haitians in the U.S. can live that reality.

"The first step," Jean added, "is for us to send aid to the most impoverished communities, not as Haitians or Dominicans, but as One Voice."

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC PARISH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary on October 16, 2005. Since its founding in 1895, the Parish has been symbol of faith to the East St. Louis community.

The church was founded by Lithuanian immigrants after they fled religious bondage and famine occurring in Russia during the late 1800s. The first purely Lithuanian Catholic congregation was organized in 1885 in New York. Soon afterwards separate Lithuanian churches were built in other places like Immaculate Conception of East St. Louis in 1895.

The challenge of the Church is to be a constant light in a dark world and to bring resilience and hope to the people who need it most. Throughout these 110 years Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish has done just that. My family and I are proud to have attended mass at Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Catholic Parish.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless this small congregation and that they would remain a positive influence for the future of the Parish and the community of East St. Louis.

CONGRATULATING MR. PERRY M. SIMMONS ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Perry M. Simmons on a lifetime of work and dedication to the public. Mr. Simmons has spent his life serving the city of Baytown, Harris County, the State of Texas, and his country.

Mr. Simmons served in the Navy during World War II on board the ship that carried General Douglas MacArthur back to the Philippines, the USS *LST 709*. He would advance through the ranks to become lieutenant and go on to earn four combat medals and a Philippine Liberation Medal. After serving in World War II Mr. Simmons returned to Texas to earn his bachelors degree in Journalism. After short but successful careers in advertising and management, Governor Dolph Briscoe personally appointed Mr. Simmons Deputy Director for the Governor's Committee on Aging.

Mr. Simmons won his first election to Baytown City Council in 1980, and was hired by then-Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay as his

administrative assistant in 1981. He served on the Baytown City Council throughout the 1980s, and was instrumental in securing funds for the West Main Bridge—now named, in his honor, the Perry Simmons Bridge. In 1995, he retired from Judge Lindsay's office, at the age of 75.

Mr. Simmons can look back with pride at his life's accomplishments. I applaud him for his efforts and service to the public and wish him well in future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS H. FISHER—  
DEDICATED COMMUNITY LEADER

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of my good friend, Lew Fisher, a generous and dedicated community leader who will be greatly missed in Aston, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. As his family, friends and neighbors mourn the passing of Lew Fisher, I want to take a few moments to remember his work and difference he made in the community he served so faithfully for over 20 years.

Lew spent almost his entire life in Aston, he loved it there and spent 20 years giving his service as a Township Commissioner without reserve to the people he called his neighbors. He leaves behind an impressive list of accomplishments that most people only hope to achieve in their lifetime. Lew will be remembered for many different reasons, including his generosity to the Aston community. His inspirational leadership had a profound effect on helping people better their lives. Even with all of his work in public service and with community organizations, Lew endeared himself to many because of his generous spirit and wise counsel. On a personal note, I benefited tremendously from his advice during my years of public service. Whether it was a township concern or just a relaxed visit with an old friend, the Aston locals always knew they would find the support and guidance they were looking for in a chat with Lew. While in his presence you were immediately put at ease with his warm smile, his firm handshake, his gentle voice and his admirable character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many in the 7th Congressional District. I wish Lew's wife of 52 years, Florence and family, my heartfelt condolences and may they find comfort in knowing that the many people he impacted deeply value his dedication and generosity and the example of his life and work.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MELROSE,  
NEW MEXICO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the kickoff of centennial festivities in the town of Melrose, New

Mexico. The annual Old Timer's Festival on August 11th marks the beginning of an entire year devoted to celebrating the founding of this high-plains hamlet. In Melrose, the past will be commingled with the future as young and old stand together in tribute to one hundred years of perseverance and determination.

The town was originally called BrownHorn, after two local cattle ranchers. The Santa Fe Railway earmarked the area for its division switching point and requested that the name be changed to Melrose, purportedly after a town in Ohio. Soon after construction had started, the Melrose location was abandoned and the division switch was moved to a larger town nearby.

J.L. Downing, an early settler in the area, has been called the father of Melrose by some and is given much credit for the survival of this rural village. Downing is noted for encouraging early settlers by offering free water to residents until they could dig wells of their own; a feat of generosity that remains unrivalled to this date. The settlers stayed and the town continued despite the many challenges faced by early settlers.

Widespread availability of water led to agriculture which became a mainstay for Melrose residents who were now able to irrigate the arid land and produce life-sustaining crops. Once known as the broom-corn capital of New Mexico, Melrose stayed alive as enterprising folks opened businesses to service the area. The struggle for survival was exacerbated by severe winters, drought and fire but hard work and dedication prevailed as Melrose residents toughed it out and stayed.

In 1914, Melrose was reported to have had an Opera House, several businesses, a legendary girls' basketball team and a growing population. Some years later, however, WWI and the flu epidemic greatly depleted the town's population. Once again, residents of Melrose plowed through the hard times and in the 1930's organized a Chamber of Commerce for the betterment of the town and its people. In the WWII era, the population swelled to over 1500 from just a few hundred in 1940.

Today, the town encompasses 1.72 miles and averages 750 residents from all walks of life who engage in many career activities although ranching and farming remain at the heart of the Melrose economy. Located just 21 miles west of Cannon Air Force Base, the Melrose Bombing Range has been an integral part of testing and training operations. Many citizens of Melrose are employed by Cannon Air Force Base and local businesses benefit economically from it as well.

Melrose is also the birthplace of William Hanna, one-half of the legendary Hanna-Barbera, whose credits include cartoons such as, "Tom and Jerry, Yogi Bear and Huckleberry Hound." And the largest collection of Depression-era art in New Mexico can be viewed at the Melrose library.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Melrose, New Mexico, as they reflect on the past and look toward the future of this unique rural community. The town of Melrose has endured despite many challenges and setbacks over the year through the determination and of residents through the ages. In the coming year, townspeople will pay tribute to one hundred years on the high plains of New Mexico and honor their forefathers whose actions by many accounts, led to the successful town we see today.

It is places such as Melrose that shaped this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community deserves our recognition.

Melrose has a proud past and a bright future.

HONORING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF GREG HOLYFIELD

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service and tremendous contributions that Greg Holyfield has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while serving as a member of my Washington, DC, staff.

Greg is leaving our Nation's capital to attend graduate school at the University of Arkansas, where he will be part of the inaugural class at the Clinton School of Public Service. My staff and I are sad to see him leave, but we are proud of him for earning a spot in this select class.

While working on Capitol Hill, Greg has proven himself to be an outstanding legislative assistant. His hard work and insight have helped me do my job better. And those same abilities have gained the respect of his colleagues.

Greg is a talented professional who always completes the task at hand, no matter how complicated or tedious. He has truly excelled in the fast-paced environment of Congress. Through it all, though, Greg always took the time to bestow a compliment or kind word to those around him.

The Clinton School will be fortunate to have you, Greg. Thank you for all your help, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NATION  
OF BELIZE AS REPORTED  
BY AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and significant words of the Ambassador of Belize to the United States Her Excellency Lisa Shoman in her opinion editorial in today's edition of The Hill newspaper.

As Ambassador of Belize in Washington, Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize. She has brought to the attention of this Congress individually and collectively the importance of building, strengthening, and nurturing good relations between our two countries, not simply out of economic incentive, but for cultural and development purposes as well. Belize is truly privileged to have such an effective representative here in Washington, DC.

Belize admittedly is a small country in size, covering an area about the size of Massachusetts and with a population of only 275,000. It faces many of the challenges of small and developing nations as well as those pertinent to