

of Law in 1973 and graduated three years later with a Juris Doctor degree.

Throughout her noteworthy career as an attorney, Judge Jasper worked in private practice and served as general counsel for a local financial institution. She became the assistant attorney general and trial attorney for the Bureau of Worker's Compensation. Judge Jasper served for four years as a magistrate with the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court before being elected as Judge with the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1987. She was re-elected to the bench for two more consecutive terms, in 1993 and 1999. Beyond her dedication to her family and profession, Judge Jasper continues to offer her time and talents as an active leader within her neighborhood, her church and within several civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of Judge Mabel M. Jasper, as she is being honored on September 16, 2005, by colleagues and friends to celebrate her significant contributions to the Cleveland community, framed by tenacity, integrity and excellence. As a distinguished judge and attorney, Judge Jasper's brilliant legacy will continue to inspire us all, and will serve as a beacon of possibility for people of all races, lighting a clear path along which goals are attained and where others will follow. I wish Judge Mabel M. Jasper continued health, happiness and peace as she journeys onward from this day.

HONORING THE 216TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 216th Anniversary of the United States Marshals Service (USMS), our nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency.

The Judiciary Act of 1789 created the United States Marshals Service. That same year, President George Washington appointed the first thirteen U.S. Marshals. At that time the Service's primary mission was to support the federal courts; however, U.S. Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals also performed a myriad of duties such as executing warrants, distributing presidential proclamations, registering enemy aliens in time of war, controlling riots, conducting the national census, collecting commerce statistics, and protecting the President. Many of these responsibilities have changed over the past 216 years, yet the Service's dedication to integrity and justice has remained constant.

Today, the USMS provides for the custody and transportation of federal prisoners, ensures protection for witnesses, and manages the maintenance and disposal of seized and forfeited properties. Also of great importance is the Service's fugitive apprehension mission. The USMS apprehends more federal fugitives than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. State and local law enforcement agencies nationwide have found the Service to be an invaluable fugitive apprehension resource. U.S. Marshals and Deputy U.S. Marshals carry out complex and life-threatening missions daily, striving to maintain the integrity of the American judicial process.

Over the years, the USMS has earned its reputation as one of the most versatile and effective law enforcement agencies in the world. The 4,500 men and women of the U.S. Marshals Service are justly proud of their history. I too am proud, and wish to commend the United States Marshals Service and thank them for their contributions to the law enforcement community and to our nation.

THE GOLDEN POPPY AWARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the annual selection of The Golden Poppy Award in California. The Golden Poppy Award is given annually by the California State Parks Foundation to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to protecting, enhancing, and advocating for California's state parks. This year's recipient of the Golden Poppy Award is Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

Support of our state parks means support of our environment. This company has developed its own "Toyota Earth Charter." In it, Toyota outlines its goal of growing as a company in a way that is in harmony with the environment, including achieving zero emissions throughout all areas of business activities. To that end the company pledges to build close and cooperative relationships with a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations involved in environmental preservation, including governments, local municipalities, and related companies and industries.

One such example of the company's interest in a clean environment is its development of a high-mileage, low-emissions gas-electric hybrid vehicle, the Prius. The technology behind the Prius has made Toyota a leader in environment friendly hybrid technology today.

In keeping with the spirit of their Earth Charter, Toyota supports a wide range of projects, and awarded a major grant to the California State Parks Foundation for its "Coast Alive!" program. "Coast Alive!" underwrites workshops to middle school teachers that enable them to lead their classes on field studies at nearby State Parks. Armed with this knowledge, their students study the fragile marine ecology of our coastline, experience its beauty, and come to understand the importance of restoring and preserving it as a valuable resource. With the generous donation from Toyota, the Foundation will be able to create interactive, multi-media materials for this program.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the California State Parks family in congratulating Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. on earning the Golden Poppy Award, the symbol of the Golden State.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month—a celebra-

tion of Americans of Hispanic heritage and their significant, collective and individual contribution to our community and to our nation.

Hosting one of the events this year is the Cleveland Public Library. The Cleveland Public Library and regional branches continue their commitment to promoting our diverse community, richly infused with Hispanic culture and language. As part of the Library's 2005 Strategic Plan, new and permanent resources of Spanish Language collections is now underway, along with the implementation of a Spanish language website.

Hispanic Heritage Month is reflective of the five hundred-year history of Hispanic culture and contribution to America. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably to all areas of our culture—from medicine, law and business, to education, music and the fine arts. Hispanic Americans in our community and in communities across the country are life-saving doctors and nurses, veterans, inspiring professors, dedicated teachers, committed elected officials, fair-minded judges, and hardworking factory employees. Americans of Hispanic heritage continue to bring energy, innovation, and a real sense of social justice to America, while retaining the cultural traditions of their homeland for all citizens to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, and join me in expressing my gratitude for the outstanding contributions made by Hispanic Americans. Their journey to America, fraught with significant obstacles and strife, paved the way for a better life for their children and future generations, and signifies what it means to be an American. Within our diversity we find strength. Within our traditions we find unity. Because of their journey, and the journey of people from all points of the world, we are stronger as a community, more unified as a nation, and better as people.

STERLING HEIGHTS' FIRE FIGHTERS UNION ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 30, 2005 the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance, honoring their 2005 retirees. This yearly event honors Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizes their commendable contributions to the city. I am pleased to be associated with this fine organization and to call many of them my friends.

I rise today to pay tribute to the careers of three retiring firefighters. Tom Kropf was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on May 21, 1979. He was licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician in December 1980. Upon his completion of the maiden medic program in December 1991, he was promoted to firefighter ALS (Advanced Life Support) on June 19, 1992. He has been promoted three times: Lieutenant on March 30, 1995, Fire Inspector on January 3, 1996, and Fire Marshal on May 21, 2003. Throughout his tenure, he has received many awards and recognitions.

Mr. Kropf was Employee of the Month in February 1987 and Firefighter of the Year in 1999. He received a citation for performing lifesaving efforts on June 2, 1998 and the Fire Chief's Award in March 2002.

Bill Kreston earned his Bachelor's degree in math from Eastern Michigan University in 1972. First employed by the Hamtramck Fire Department, Mr. Kreston was hired by the Sterling Heights Fire Department in 1986. He received a Meritorious Unit Citation for freeing a pinned victim from a serious auto accident in 1990. He has also received numerous safe driver awards. On July 27, 1992, Mr. Kreston was promoted to Fire Equipment Operator; on July 2, 1997, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant; and to the rank of Fire Inspector on January 9, 2003.

Fred Campau was appointed as a Sterling Heights Firefighter on January 21, 1980. He was a member of the maiden medic course and pioneered the way for future Advanced Life Support students. He has received many distinctions, including 5-year Safe Driver Awards, Perfect Attendance Award and the Fire Chief Award in January 2002. Throughout his career, Mr. Campau has been promoted to Fire Lieutenant on October 17, 1995 and Fire Inspector on August 31, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these three heroes, who have dedicated themselves to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

A TRIBUTE TO POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Polytechnic University upon the extremely momentous occasion of its Sesquicentennial celebration. It is a privilege to represent Polytechnic University in the United States House of Representatives and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing its illustrious history and impressive accomplishments.

Founded in 1854 for "the higher education of lads and young men," Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute welcomed its first class of 265 students at 99 Livingston Street on September 10, 1855. The Institute thrived, and by the close of the 19th century, it was a full-fledged school of engineering with a new name—Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

By its 100th birthday in 1954, Polytechnic had outgrown its campus in varied downtown Brooklyn locations. In 1957, it moved to a centralized location at 333 Jay Street, former home to the American Safety Razor Factory. In 1973, Polytechnic merged with the New York University School of Engineering and Science and was renamed Polytechnic Institute of New York. In 1985, the Institute was granted university status by the New York State Board of Regents and officially renamed Polytechnic University.

Over the next 17 years, the University experienced the greatest transformation in its history. Polytechnic spearheaded the creation of MetroTech Center, a 16-acre, \$1-billion university-corporate park in Brooklyn, NY, which was built around its existing campus. The Univer-

sity updated its facilities and built a new home in 1992, for its Bern Dibner Library of Science and Technology and its Center for Advanced Technology in Telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, Polytechnic University is an extremely prestigious institution, which has dedicated itself to producing students who are prepared to change and embrace the ever-increasing technological world. Under the leadership of its new President, Jerry MacArthur Hultin, I am confident that Polytechnic University will continue to teach and challenge its students to be among our nation's brightest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the prestigious accomplishments of Polytechnic University and join the university in celebrating 150 years of dedicated service to the people of the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE HURON RIVER VFW POST 4434 ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434, whose members have valiantly defended our Nation against all enemies and, often, all odds.

As they transitioned back to their loved ones and civilian life, the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars continued their distinguished service to our country through their dedicated community service projects, including the support of local veteran's services and the propagation of patriotism education for local youth. Truly, the members of the Huron River Veterans of Foreign Wars have provided a stellar example of service above self, and have championed the cause of liberty and equality within our Nation and our world. May their heroism and altruism ever be remembered as an inspiration to every generation of Americans.

In conclusion, then, Mr. Speaker, let us all extend our enduring gratitude to the Huron River Veterans of Foreign War Post 4434. It is the least we can do for those who have done so much for us.

IN HONOR OF ELLIE MAPSON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Ellie Mapson, Jr., community leader, activist, artist, dedicated family man and friend and mentor to many, as he is being honored by the West Park Community Coalition, Inc., for his grace, focus and tireless efforts in raising our Westside community into the light of possibility for everyone.

Mr. Mapson's steadfast commitment to his community mirrors his unwavering focus on family and faith. Mr. Mapson's wife of 47 years, Maggie, their children, Daryl, Kimberly and Dana; the loving memory of David; and their four grandchildren remain central to his

life. Mr. Mapson and his family are long-time members of the Second Calvary Baptist Church and the West Park Community Coalition, where he also serves on the Board of Directors. Mr. Mapson has devoted countless hours at his church as layman, program vice-president, past chairman of the board and Sunday school teacher. He also led the effort to develop a college scholarship program for member families.

Mr. Mapson is known as a local historian and ironically, his own life became part of Cleveland history. In 1972, Ellie Mapson Jr. became the first African American to run for Cleveland City Council in a seat located west of the Cuyahoga River. He finished second out of five candidates. He went on to serve as president of the predominantly white West Park Community Council, and he was also the first African American member of the West Park Kiwanis Club and eventually served as its president.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ellie Mapson, Jr., whose integrity, warmth, faith and concern for others continues to pave the way for strength and renewal throughout our Westside community. Mr. Mapson's professional talents and spirit of volunteerism have fortified all aspects of the West Park Community Coalition, Inc. and the Second Calvary Baptist Church. His activism on behalf of our entire community offers light, hope and the promise of a better day for people of the Westside, and for our entire Cleveland community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present on the legislative days of September 21, September 22 and September 28 of 2005 for Roll Call votes 478 through 493. On Wednesday, September 21, I underwent surgery for a detached retina and this was the reason for my absence.

If I were present I would have voted "Aye" on Roll Call vote 478, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 479, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 480, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 481, "No" on Roll Call vote 482, "No" on Roll Call vote 483, "No" on Roll Call vote 484, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 485, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 486, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 487, "No" on Roll Call vote 488, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 489, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 490, "No" on Roll Call vote 491, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 492, "Aye" on Roll Call vote 493. "Aye" on Roll Call vote 494, "No" on Roll Call vote 495, and "Aye" on Roll Call vote 496.

TRIBUTE TO PROJECT BACKPACK

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend the founders of Project Backpack for their inventive and inspiring efforts to help the children affected by Hurricane Katrina.