

and was originally known as the Women's Committee. Through the years the League raised over \$1.7 million and offered many community and educational programs to folks in the Kalamazoo area by making orchestral music a part of their daily lives.

The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League provides services to our District that far surpasses the vital cultural contribution that their musical performances provide. I would like to acknowledge the many contributions of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra League, congratulate them on 75 impressive years of entertaining the residents of Southwestern Michigan, and wish them many more years of continued success.

HONORING PFC. TYLER MACKENZIE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart and I wish to ask the members in this chamber to join me in honoring a fallen soldier from Evans, Colorado. Last week, Private Tyler MacKenzie was killed in action while serving our Nation, in Iraq. He was a patriot that believed strongly in the freedoms we enjoy here in America and joined the Army to help defend the rights of citizens in Iraq.

This is particularly poignant because today Private MacKenzie would have commemorated his life in another way, by celebrating his 21st birthday. However, because of his willingness to serve and place his life on the line for others, we honor him as a fallen soldier.

Private MacKenzie comes from a family with a long military tradition. Both of his grandfathers, Emmett MacKenzie and Ron Borland, served in the Navy. Tyler's father, David, served in the Army during the first Gulf War and his Uncle Chuck was an Engineer in the Army. As a young child, Tyler lived in places like Louisiana and Germany as his dad's stations changed.

For the most part, however, Tyler grew up in the small town of Evans. He attended Greeley West High School and played football. After he graduated in 2003, Tyler worked in the family-owned business, MacKenzie Manufacturing.

He postponed joining the Army in order to train physically and recognized that he wanted to further mature. He did this because he knew once he joined that he would strive for the top and train for the elite Army special forces.

Once he joined, Tyler MacKenzie entered into the renowned 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He was in the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and was stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Sadly, Private MacKenzie was in Iraq only a short time. On November 2, 2005, after nearly three weeks in Iraq, he died in combat when a roadside bomb exploded near his armored Humvee in the southern part of Baghdad.

His courage is admirable, and as the legislative body that votes to send our service members into battle, I want to stress this point: He knew what he needed to do, and that was to join our military for at least one

tour of duty to help defend our Nation so the same freedoms we have in America could soon be enjoyed by individuals throughout Iraq.

I spoke with his family, and they are heartbroken about their loss, undoubtedly. However, they are to be admired for their courage and continued dedication to America's military forces who are fighting terrorists in the Middle East. They continue to support the President and ask that America's leaders not give up this fight.

See, last November was the first time Tyler MacKenzie could vote in Federal elections, and he voted to support President Bush because he knew the President was the one he wanted to be Commander in Chief.

As a mother of a sailor, my heart goes out to Tyler's parents David and Julie MacKenzie and his sister Nicole.

Mr. Speaker, we are so fortunate to live in this great country where freedom is something that we rarely have to think about and often take for granted. It is simply a way of life for us, and we are truly blessed to live in a country that honors citizens for their spirit, their ideas, their individuality, and their courage. We can maintain the blessings of our freedoms only because we have citizens like Tyler who are willing to fight to defend them for us.

HONORING SHERIFF RICKY
HEADLEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Williamson County's own "Singing Sheriff", Ricky Headley. Since he took office in 2003, Headley has been instrumental in improving the lives of Williamson County residents—not only as Sheriff, but through his charitable works as well.

As Sheriff, Headley has instituted new procedures, increased community outreach, and raised morale in the Sheriff's Office. A few of Headley's accomplishments include:

A reduced Staff turnover rate at the Sheriff's Office.

The Amber Alert System has been installed to assist in locating missing children.

Privatized Jail Medical Program to save taxpayers' money and reduce liability.

Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Classes offered for the first time.

Project Lifesaver implemented in April 2005 provides identification bracelets fitted with location transmitters for the mentally handicapped and Alzheimer's patients in order to allow their quick recovery should they wander from home.

A Child Is Missing (ACIM) implemented in January 2005. This nationwide program allows for 1000 calls a minute to be made in a specific area should a child be reported missing.

The result has been a decreasing crime rate in Williamson County even as the population increases.

And despite the incredible demands of his job, Headley continues to delight Tennesseans with his musical talent. Performing with his band, Pure Country, Headley has entertained at more than 100 benefits and fundraisers—helping to raise over 300,000 dollars for charity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Sheriff Headley for his contributions to Williamson County and sending our best wishes to his wife Melissa and children Ricky Jr. and Matt.

ON THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TEACHING OF WRITING MADE BY JAMES GRAY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of James Gray, the founder of a small but enormously successful educational program called the National Writing Project. Sadly, Mr. Gray died on November 1 in Danville, California after a long illness. He was only 78 years old.

Mr. Gray, a former high school teacher and then a senior lecturer at University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Education, founded the innovative Bay Area Writing Project in 1974. Acting on his belief that successful classroom teachers were an untapped resource for providing their peers with professional development, James Gray brought together 25 talented Bay Area teachers and charged them with sharing their expertise about the teaching of writing.

The Bay Area Writing Project became the first site that offered a professional development model for teachers of writing. Now known as the National Writing Project (NWP), the program has grown to 189 university-based sites located in fifty states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Congress, on a bi-partisan basis, has shown its recognition for the value of this program by providing Federal appropriations for it for over ten years and I am proud to have helped secure these well-spent funds for this purpose.

Mr. Gray served as Executive Director of the NWP until his retirement in 1994 and remained on the NWP Board of Directors until his death.

James Gray's simple but highly successful model has been responsible for transforming classroom practices and improving student writing performance at schools in rural, urban, and suburban communities across the U.S.

A May 2001 Academy for Educational Development report notes the impact of that vision: "Teachers described their experience with the writing project as nothing short of profound. Beginning with the summer institute and continuing throughout their careers with continuity programs, teachers noted how their philosophy about teaching and learning, their daily practices, and their connection to a network of teachers developed through the project."

I couldn't agree more with Richard Sterling, the NWP Executive Director, when he said that, "Jim's belief in teachers and their knowledge, commitment, and creativity never wavered. We are all the beneficiaries of his vision and his tireless work on behalf of the National Writing Project." I am honored to have known James Gray personally and I am grateful for his vision, and I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S.

Congress for the contributions to education and our society that he made during his lifetime.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAMU'S WEEKLY THREE-HOUR PROGRAM HOT JAZZ SATURDAY NIGHT AND OF THE SHOW'S CREATOR, PRODUCER AND HOST, ROB BAMBERGER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly fortunate to have in my district one of the country's best public broadcasting stations, and Members of the House share in that good fortune while they are in Washington. If Members have had the pleasure of tuning in to WAMU 88.5 FM on Saturday nights you will understand why I rise today to congratulate WAMU and Host Rob Bamberger on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Hot Jazz Saturday Night, Washington's only regularly scheduled show devoted to vintage jazz and one of the longest running locally produced shows on WAMU.

Rob Bamberger's commitment to vintage jazz began in 1963 at an elementary school book fair in Shaker Heights, Ohio. Waiting until the mad rush was over; an admittedly shy kid with glasses approached the record table to see if anything was left. While the table had been picked pretty clean, Rob spied a two-LP set with a trombone and a top hat on the cover, set against an elegant red curtain. It was a two-record set of broadcast recordings by Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra. It cost Rob a dime, a fateful investment because all he had to hear was the "Hawaiian War Chant" and he was hooked. That two-LP set became the cornerstone for a life-long love and scholarly interest in American music of the 1920's, 30's and 40's, and the start of a record collection that has been the mother lode for the music featured on Hot Jazz Saturday Night.

WAMU listeners get a weekly glimpse into Rob Bamberger's record collection every Saturday night from 7 to 10 p.m. Rob often focuses on an artist or theme, illuminating the story behind the music and the artists from his own intimate and extensive store of knowledge, and the most recent scholarship. It becomes a lesson in American history and culture, but never stuffy or professorial. Rob's succinct and informative commentaries are laced with dry humor that endears him to his weekly fans.

Rob Bamberger's Hot Jazz Saturday Night represents programming that listeners can't get anywhere else. Listeners who danced to some of the musicians and groups featured on the show enthuse about hearing artists and songs they have not heard in decades. Other listeners once had the impression that jazz is a remote unapproachable music enjoyed only by denizens of smoke-filled bars. Rob disagrees and says there are no prerequisites to enjoying jazz or Hot Jazz Saturday Night. His commitment to introducing this treasured American art form to new listeners is boundless. You can neither be too old or too young to discover and revel in the music of Benny

Goodman, Louis Armstrong, Glen Miller, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and countless others who are enduring images of a bygone era evoked every Saturday night on WAMU.

I join jazz supporters in the Nation's Capital in paying tribute to WAMU and Rob Bamberger on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Hot Jazz Saturday Night.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATOR CHARLES M. SWANICK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a longtime member of the Erie County Legislature who has chosen 2005 as his final year of service as a legislator. This person is not a resident of the 27th Congressional District, but is someone with whom I have worked closely, and about whom I still maintain kind and warm thoughts—former Erie County Legislature Chairman Charles M. Swanick, one of that body's longest-serving members.

Now, Mr. Speaker, believe me, there have been and will continue to be many things said about Chuck Swanick, his tenure in the legislature and his service to the people he represented. I choose to remember Chuck's service in a manner once used by The Buffalo News in endorsing his candidacy for re-election in 1995. That word was "indefatigable."

The word indefatigable is defined as "tireless," "unflagging" or "untiring." Knowing Chuck as I have for nearly 20 years, these words could not describe him, or his manner of service to his constituents, more effectively.

Chuck Swanick was born a quintessential "baby boomer"; born in Buffalo on December 18, 1948 and raised in a northern first-ring suburb of Tonawanda, Chuck and his older brother Dave were raised by two wonderful people, his father Dave, a railroadman, and his mother Muriel, a homemaker. Chuck grew up on Moore Avenue in Tonawanda's Lincoln Park area, and like most baby boomers of his generation, made his way through the 1960s and 1970s in a routine way. He finished high school, found work on the railroad like his dad, and spent time with his friends.

It was his friends—or rather a conversation with his friends—that brought Chuck Swanick into the public realm.

During one night's round of discussion and "refreshment," Chuck Swanick and his friends continued a long-held discussion of current events that ordinarily would end with the conclusion that the public officials running Erie County were, shall we say, less than effective. During this conversation, as more beverages were consumed, it was determined that one of the group should stand for election to public office, in order to "make a difference" for their community and, one supposes, for their younger generation.

Then came the kicker for Chuck: he was the only unmarried person—and thus the only person with enough time to effectively campaign for office—among the group. Chuck, it was collectively decided, would be the group's candidate. The office he chose? Erie County Legislator.

Chuck began his quest for public office by answering the local Democratic Party's adver-

tisement for a candidate for the Legislature in what was then the 12th District. Upon attending an endorsement meeting, Chuck was dutifully supplied the party's endorsement and was told, "we'll see you in November." Obviously, the committee wasn't counting on victory. In truth, they were in for a wild ride.

Chuck began his quest for office with a write-in candidacy for the Conservative Party's endorsement—an impossible task, many pundits thought. Chuck began a write-in campaign the likes of which had never before been seen in Erie County, and stunned observers by stealing the line away from the incumbent. Thereafter, Chuck won a difficult general election victory, and so born was a political career that has stretched more than 25 years.

Chuck was a rebel during his early years in the Legislature. Known as a "maverick" Democrat, Chuck always sought to represent the people of his district—in the towns of Tonawanda and Grand Island, the City of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. Chuck had no problems bucking the party line when he thought it appropriate to do so. In so doing, at one point or another, he earned the enmity of public officials from all levels of government. But in his mind, he was representing the people who sent him to County Hall. That was good enough for him.

In later years, as Chuck's years of service in the Legislature grew, he became something of an "elder statesman." Graying hair precipitated the shaving of his moustache, and by the 1990s, Chuck's years of service gave him an institutional knowledge of County government that few possessed. Indeed, it would be that knowledge that would serve him well in years to come.

Chuck served as the chairman of several of the Legislature's standing committees, and was the longtime chairman of the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (formerly known as the Agricultural District Advisory Committee).

In 1996, after nearly giving up hope of ascending to the Legislature's leadership, a sudden vacancy in the Legislature's Chairmanship occurred. With a unanimous vote, Chuck Swanick became the 9th Chairman of the Erie County Legislature in May of 1996.

I was proud to work with Chuck during this period. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I had just returned from my studies at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and was eager to work with Chuck in his newfound leadership role.

We would have many successes, working together. All told, I worked with Chuck in the Legislature until my election to the New York State Assembly in 1998, and during that time we had many successes. We worked together to keep the county's property tax levy at a reasonable level, and working together with then-Erie County Executive Dennis Gorski, we retired \$108 million in debt left over from the previous county administration.

Chuck made his mark upon the local laws of Erie County as well. Chuck worked with Legislator Ray Dusza on his first Item Pricing/Scanner Accuracy Law, and then forged a coalition of business leaders and consumer advocates to draft a new, more comprehensive law in 1997. Chuck also was the author of many laws involving one of his pet areas of county government, the Erie County Parks system.

After my election to the State legislature, Chuck continued as Chairman and fought battles old and new. Chuck would go on to serve