

CONGRATULATIONS TO REBEKAH  
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**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate 15-year-old Rebekah Nastav of Amoret, Missouri. Miss Nastav's design for a new stamp won the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest on April 20, 2006.

Miss Nastav's acrylic painting of a redhead duck, entitled "Morning Swim," will be featured on the 2006–2007 Junior Duck Stamp. More than 34,000 Junior Duck Stamp designs were submitted from all 50 states. Miss Nastav's stamp will be made available by the Fish and Wildlife Service for \$5.00 to the general public on June 1, 2006. Proceeds from the Junior Duck Stamp sales will be used to support environmental education efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Miss Rebekah Nastav and in wishing her luck in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BRUCE FITCH

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Bruce Fitch of Frisco, Colorado, who recently retired from his post as Executive Director of Outward Bound Wilderness. As a friend and former Executive Director of Outward Bound, I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate Bruce on his contributions to Outward Bound and to wish him well on his future endeavors.

Bruce Fitch began his stellar career at Outward Bound with a simple love of the outdoors and a desire to provide young people with a strong outdoor education. These passions led him first to a position as a river instructor for the Colorado Outward Bound School, then to a variety of administrative positions within the organization. Bruce's leadership skills and devotion to outdoor education became obvious, and he climbed the ranks until he landed at the top of the organization as Executive Director, COBS. His responsible and forward-thinking stewardship as separate Outward Bound entities merged to become Outward Bound Wilderness provided a visionary path for the organization, and ensured that young people would continue to have the opportunity to participate in Outward Bound's life-changing programs.

With the same devotion to outdoor education that Bruce showed as a young instructor and administrator for Outward Bound, he has accepted a position as the Executive Director of the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Program. I have no doubt that he will provide this organization with the same leadership and vision that he contributed to Outward Bound over the years, and I look forward to seeing what the BOEP accomplishes with Bruce at the helm.

As Bruce and his family begin this new chapter in their lives, I hope my colleagues will

join me in congratulating him on his continuing service to the outdoor education community and to those that it serves.

THE HARLEM CONGREGATIONS  
FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT,  
INC. AND THE NEW YORK STATE  
ASSEMBLY CITATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, again I rise to offer yet another much deserved tribute to the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI) and to also enter into the RECORD the wording directly from a New York State Assembly Citation proudly bestowed upon the HCCI in recognition of the HCCI's exemplary contributions to the citizens of Harlem.

The HCCI, founded in 1986, is a diverse inter-faith consortium of more than 90 congregations established to revitalize the Central Harlem community. Needless to say, the HCCI continues to make a substantial impact in Harlem. To sing the praises of this dynamic organization I will reiterate some of the initiatives they have successfully launched and maintained over the last twenty years. The HCCI is responsible for developing low and moderate income housing, creating supportive health and human services facilities and programs, providing commercial development opportunities for local businesses, expanding cultural programs, and providing assistance to families and individuals living with disabilities by providing housing and support facilities.

On April 27, 2006 during the HCCI's 20th anniversary gala dinner celebration held at the Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room in New York City, HCCI honored the Bank of New York with their "Community Development Award" recognizing the bank's support of HCCI's comprehensive community development initiatives in Harlem, in particular, the bank's operating support for the organization and mortgage financing to HCCI clients. The Bank of New York offers affordable mortgage loan products for first time homebuyers, homeowners seeking refinancing, home renovation, reverse mortgages and also provides construction loans to both not-for-profit and for-profit housing developers. The bank, through its program support, has been instrumental in contributing to the remarkable revitalization initiatives in Harlem.

As Lloyd Brown, executive vice president of the Bank of New York stated during the award acceptance speech . . . "We congratulate HCCI on its 20th year of community service in Harlem . . . (HCCI) is an organization that is successful in building affordable housing, creating commercial and job opportunities and providing health and social services to the people of Harlem." I join Mr. Brown to add my heartfelt congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I would like to acknowledge and enter into the RECORD the wording from the prestigious citation bestowed upon the Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. by the New York State Assembly.

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY CITATION

Whereas, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement (HCCI) was founded in

1986 as a consortium of 16 Harlem Churches, whose first president was the late Bishop Preston R. Washington, Sr. and today has a membership of over 90 Churches, Mosques and a Synagogue;

Whereas, HCCI began as a grassroots planning and organizing initiative, that has raised millions of dollars through ecclesiastical, entrepreneurial, and educational partnerships throughout the years. HCCI's interminable drive to improve the quality of life of all Harlemites, and dedication to community service is evidenced in the reversal of urban blight and deterioration concurrently, block by block;

Whereas, quality affordable housing has been the centerpiece of HCCI's services to the community from the beginning and to date has over 2,000 units of truly affordable housing built through innovative cross sector collaborations including elected officials, housing departments and banking institutions;

Whereas, HCCI has enhanced the livelihoods of many through adult education programs, welfare to work training literacy, trades and construction and computer technology and programming with proven success in job readiness and placement;

Whereas, HCCI has taken the leadership in addressing health issues affecting the community, most notably is the pilot program Community Organizations and Congregations for Health that offers technical assistance to faith based institutions to start non-profits that sustain HIV/AIDS prevention services;

Whereas, a Great State is only as great as those persons who give exemplary service to their community, whether through participation in voluntary programs, through unique personal achievement in their professional or other endeavors or simply through a lifetime of good citizenry; and

Whereas, such services, which is truly the lifeblood of the community and state, so often goes unrecognized and unrewarded; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that as a duly elected Member of the State Assembly of New York, I recognize that in Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement we have outstanding citizens, ones who are worthy of the esteem of both the Community and the great State of New York.

RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF MONMOUTH, OR

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 4, 2006*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city and citizens of Monmouth, Oregon, as they prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the city's foundation. Monmouth is a city that understands the meaning of words like history, tradition, and most of all, community.

Since its incorporation in 1856 by members of what became the First Christian Church, the people of Monmouth have held firm to the values that make it an outstanding example of the All-American city. The city is home to Western Oregon University which was founded in the same year and is the oldest public university in Oregon, as well as Campbell Hall, the oldest building in the state's public higher education system. The campus of Western Oregon University is also home to one of the tallest Christmas trees in the U.S., a giant Sequoia planted by the students in 1879 that has