

respect, trust, and integrity. We can conceive of peace as a tool to tap the infinite capabilities of humanity to transform consciousness and conditions that impel or compel violence at a personal, group, or national level, toward creating understanding, compassion, and love.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring the Commission on Catholic Community Action, as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their Annual Peace and Justice Awards Dinner.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL MELE AS HE CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in wishing Michael Mele the very best as he celebrates a remarkable milestone—his 100th birthday! Marking a century of hard work and dedication, today's celebration will give Michael, or Ozi Mike as he is affectionately known by family and close friends, and his loved ones the opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments he has achieved throughout his life as well as how he has touched all of their lives.

A gifted vocalist, dedicated husband and father, devoted parishioner, army veteran, and professional technician, Michael is a man of many talents that he has shared with hundreds over the course of his life. Born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut, Michael has led a fascinating life. Upon graduating from high school, he studied voice for ten years during which time he became an accomplished tenor. Michael sang in productions of such classics as *The Barber of Seville* and *Pagliacci* and, though the relocation of the production to California prevented him from taking the part, he even won a lead role opposite Betty Grable in the movie musical *Down Argentine Way*. During his time with the theater, Michael also won roles in several New York productions, including *An American Comedy* and *The Family Portrait*.

After marrying his wife, Carmel, in 1942, the couple raised two children, sons Michael and Robert. He served in the United States Army during World War II where he received training as a dental technician, a profession in which he was employed until he was hired by Winchester/Olin as a lab technician, retiring in 1971. Throughout his life, Michael has held a unique devotion to his faith and his church. Michael shared his gift for singing with a variety of Catholic churches throughout New Haven. He directed glee clubs, choirs, and sang as a soloist at St. Ann's, St. Rose's, St. Brendan's, St. Donato's, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hamden. In fact, his lifetime of dedicated efforts were recognized by the Church when Archbishop Daniel Cronin awarded him the prestigious Saint Joseph Award—the archdiocesan medal of appreciation for outstanding parishioners.

An active and inspiring retiree, Michael has continued to dedicate his time to his church as well as a new found passion for horse-riding.

What began—at age seventy-seven—with a gift certificate for riding lessons and later—at age eighty—a saddle, has blossomed into a beloved hobby. In fact, for a decade after he began riding, he spent his summers at the Bitter Root ranch in the mountains of northwest Wyoming. At 100 years old, Michael is a living treasure—he still rides, drives a car, maintains his own home, attends daily Mass, serves on the altar, and is finishing his twenty-sixth year as a fourth grade religious education teacher. He is even working on his autobiography which I have no doubt will be a real page-turner!

Today, as Michael celebrates his 100th birthday, I have no doubt that he will look back in wonder at the fascinating events that have brought him to this moment. In the last century he has witnessed some of the most important moments in world history and, through his own efforts, has left an indelible mark on the lives of all those who have known him. It is my privilege to rise today to join his sons Michael and Robert, as well as the many family and friends who have gathered in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Michael Mele on his 100th birthday. This is a very special day for all of those fortunate enough to know Michael. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN AND POW RAY KNISLEY, JR. OF CHIEFLAND, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a Prisoner of War from World War II, Ray Knisley, Jr. Born in Massachusetts, Mr. Knisley served in the U.S. Army and was captured by the Nazi Army.

Mr. Knisley served as a medical aid man with the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. While encamped near the German border of Alsace Lorraine on New Year's Eve, 1944, his entire unit was overrun and he was taken prisoner. For the next several months, Mr. Knisley was transferred between several prisoner camps, finally being rescued by the Russian Army on April 28, 1945.

Following World War II, Mr. Knisley raised his family in Massachusetts. He and his wife have five children, nine grand children and six great grand children. In 1985 Mr. Knisley moved to West Palm Beach, where he worked as a volunteer at the local Veterans Affairs Hospital for twenty years. He specialized in working with fellow prisoners of war; eventually assisting more than two hundred former POWs receive a one hundred percent disability rating. He recently moved to Chiefland about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker, prisoners of war like Ray Knisley, Jr. should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. With thousands of World War II veterans passing a way each year, it is incumbent on all Americans to hear their stories and preserve their memories. Ray Knisley, Jr. should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLOW CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor a school in my district for their academic excellence in being named a Blue Ribbon School.

The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests; or schools whose students regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the top 10 percent of the Nation on nationally-normed tests.

To receive this recognition, Willow Creek Elementary School has had in each of the past three years over 90 percent of its' students perform at "Proficient" or "Advanced" levels in math and reading. Willow Creek also received this prestigious honor in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the students of Willow Creek Elementary School as recipients of the No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT GRAY

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Robert Allen Gray who passed away after 90 glorious years on Friday, September 22, 2006.

Mr. Gray will forever be remembered by family and friends as a man of integrity and strong values. In his lifetime, he experienced many of the major events in the last century, including the Great Depression and as a soldier in the United States Army during World War II.

In his civilian life, Mr. Gray was an engineer. He was interested in working on cars as well as watching the Indianapolis 500. Mr. Gray's enthusiasm for engineering was closely followed by a passion for gardening. His love of nature was given to him by his father, a florist. Mr. Gray has passed this passion on to his children and grandchildren.

As a family man, Mr. Gray will always be remembered as affectionate and caring. He was the caregiver for many of his elderly aunts and helped his wife as she struggled with Alzheimer's disease. As a father, Mr. Gray was committed to teaching his children and grandchildren the importance of respecting and caring for others.

I extend my sympathies to his family and friends. May this man, whose displays of compassion and love touched the hearts of so many, be an inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LEICH

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of one of my constituents, Kimberly Leich of the Bronx, New York. I wish to recognize Kimberly for her Science Fiction/Fantasy, Gold Award win in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2006 contest, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance was established to promote artistic development and expression in middle and high school students throughout the Nation in cooperation with schools. This year's competition recognized the work of over 1,400 students and invited award recipients to a workshop hosted in New York designed to introduce students to the professional world of art.

Mr. Speaker, I join to wish Kimberly best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary, Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen, and to celebrate the commitment of this dedicated group of patriotic women to charity for our veterans and Nation.

The Abraham Lincoln Post Thirteen is the oldest chapter in the State of Ohio, and has maintained their dedication to honoring and supporting veterans throughout the years. The group ensures that American veterans receive the benefits and support they deserve for representing our great Nation. The women welcome new veterans from current wars, as well as bring much needed light into the lives of senior veterans. These women make regular visits to veteran's wards of a local hospital to take the Nation's former defenders to breakfast and religious services. In recent years, the Ladies Auxiliary's great work has raised enough money to dedicate a stone in the Western Reserve National Cemetery. This stone is a noble commemorative monument to the deceased veterans of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, as well as the women of the Ladies' Auxiliary who have loyally supported all the servicemen and women of the United States Armed Services.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the wonderful work and dedication of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans on this momentous anniversary. The chapter members are proud of their Polish heritage, culture, and we share in their 75 years of accomplishments. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans and country well in to the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF NIKA MAPLES THE 2007 TEXAS SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nika Maples for being recognized as the 2007 Texas Secondary Teacher of the Year. She is an English teacher at Fossil Ridge High School in the Keller Independent School District in Fort Worth, Texas.

After suffering a stroke at the young age of 20, Nika has dedicated her life to making a difference in the lives of others. She began by teaching illiterate adults how to read and write. Nika has volunteered abroad in Japan, Thailand, and Germany to teach English as a Second Language.

As a 10th grade English teacher, Nika gives her students the confidence to reach their fullest potential. Her unique life experiences have encouraged an enthusiasm for teaching, and reaffirmed her commitment to make learning come alive in the classroom. Nika demonstrates how students should embrace life and live a life of abundance every day. She was also honored as the Keller I.S.D. Secondary Teacher of the Year for the 2005–2006 school year.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent such a dedicated and passionate teacher in the 26th District of Texas. Nika Maples serves as a role model not only for her students, but for all teachers around the Nation who share her devotion to helping others.

HONORING MR. JERRY TIDWELL OF GRANBURY, TEXAS FOR HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas for his recent election as president of the National Newspaper Association (NNA).

Whether it is serving as the publisher of the Hood County News or president of NNA, Mr. Tidwell's 36 years of dedicated service to the newspaper business and the local community are proof of the positive impact one person can have on others.

As a humble man whose actions speak louder than words, Jerry Tidwell is the kind of person that sets an inspiring example for us all to follow. He doesn't enjoy the attention much, but let me add my voice to the chorus of those who respect his steady leadership. Put simply, Jerry Tidwell is the very best Texas has to offer and it is an honor to represent him in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we need more leaders like Jerry Tidwell in our midst that truly make a difference in their community, state, and country. At this time, I ask Members to join me in offering our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for continued success to a great newspaper-

man and friend—Mr. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas.

We wish him well and hope that he can enjoy this time with fellow colleagues, family, and friends.

He has earned it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JULIA CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 517 through 519. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on 517 and 518 and "no" on 519.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA IN LINCOLN, ALABAMA

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the hard working people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama in Lincoln, Alabama, who are celebrating the fifth anniversary of the opening of their Lincoln plant on November 14, 2006.

In 2001, the Honda Motor Company chose Lincoln as the site of their new plant. Over the past five years Honda Manufacturing of Alabama has grown from an original capital investment of \$400 million and employment of 2,000 associates to the current 4,500 associates and over \$1.2 billion in capital investment today.

Honda has helped transform Talladega County's economy, as well bring a positive impact on local school and community philanthropic activities.

As further testament to the hard working Alabamians employed at Honda, on November 3rd the plant produced its millionth vehicle. The celebration of that milestone included a small ceremony at the plant involving associates to mark the special occasion.

I salute the people of Honda Manufacturing of Alabama for reaching these important milestones, and congratulate the entire company on their plant's fifth anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF MILTON, GEORGIA

**HON. TOM PRICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2006*

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor, city council and citizens of the newly created city of Milton in Georgia. In accordance with a bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Milton will be