

the Shedd undertakes are vital to understanding and preserving our environment, especially in the Chicago area.

As a Chicagoan, I am proud to have the Shedd Aquarium located in my congressional district. The Shedd's genuine commitment to serving the greater Chicagoland community has for decades made it one of the most distinguished non-profits in our area. In particular, the Shedd demonstrates an exceptional commitment to the community in Chicago through education programs and other service-related initiatives. One of its most important projects is its participation in the Great Lakes Forever initiative. Roughly 37 million people depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, recreation, and livelihood. The Shedd is committed to ensuring that the Great Lakes are healthy and continue to serve those around them for centuries to come.

Clearly, the Shedd understands its role as a community leader and gives a great deal back to the people of Chicago. Mr. Speaker, as Gifford Pinchot once said of conservation, "Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men." Conservation is paramount at the Shedd Aquarium, and every operation is carried out to reflect this ideal; it is truly working for the lasting good of man. Chicago and its citizens are privileged to call its city the home of the John G. Shedd Aquarium. The Shedd Aquarium works tirelessly to give back to the community, including both Chicago and the Nation. Again, it is my great honor to announce that the John G. Shedd Aquarium is the 2006 recipient of the National Award for Museum and Library Services.

IN TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST MIKE
BOYD

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mike Boyd, a legendary television reporter and anchor whose level of career achievement was matched only by his passion for living life to its fullest. Sadly, Mr. Boyd passed away on October 14, 2006 at the age of 74. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Mike's remarkable life, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting this outstanding citizen and model reporter.

Mike Boyd was born in Maine in 1932, the son and grandson of attorneys. He graduated from the University of Maine and after a number of broadcasting jobs along the East Coast, he joined Sacramento's KCRA Channel 3 News in 1963 where he remained until his retirement in 2001. Mike became an institution in Sacramento as thousands of Sacramento residents tuned into his hard-hitting, exclusive stories throughout his 38-year tenure at KCRA. His memorable, deep, and booming voice made him ideal for a career in broadcast journalism.

His tenacity as an investigative reporter led him to cover some of the past half-century's most unforgettable stories. In 1968, Mike Boyd was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles when Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated and his reporting of the tragic event was broadcast across the country. When the ru-

mors began to circulate about Ronald Regan running for President, it was to Mike Boyd that Nancy Reagan admitted that she hoped Ronald would not run.

Perhaps Mike Boyd will be most remembered for his coverage of some of the nation's most notorious crimes. Boyd was always looking for the scoop, and he was often successful. He was the first reporter to interview Charles Manson in prison. Manson went so far as to offer Boyd his steak dinner. Years later, in 1988, he had an exclusive interview with the infamous landlady Dorthea Puente, who was convicted of killing eight of her tenants in downtown Sacramento. His ability to connect with his interview subjects clearly showed through, as evidenced by the retirement gift Puente sent Boyd from prison.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike Boyd's friends and family gather to honor this great American, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most respected citizens. His integrity, morals and enthusiasm for his job were inspirations to young reporters everywhere. He will be deeply missed. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Mike's invaluable contributions to Sacramento and the United States of America.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENISE
ASHBAUGH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denise Ashbaugh in commemoration of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Denise is a 17-year survivor of breast cancer who has dedicated herself to the fight to eradicate breast cancer.

Denise has exhibited unparalleled commitment to the push for breast cancer awareness in Southern Nevada. She has served both as the vice president and president of the Las Vegas, Nevada, Chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. She has organized volunteers to conduct fundraising events, educational events, support groups and early detection programs. Denise also participated in establishing the MammoVan, a state-wide program to provide mammography to underserved and uninsured women, and a local news station's buddy check program.

At the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's National Headquarters, Denise was the National Spokeswoman for the Cure. She also served as Special Program Director of Board Breaks for the Cure, a national fundraising and breast cancer awareness program that she conceived and developed. She represented the Foundation on national talk shows, ad campaigns, speaking engagements, and local news networks. Denise's dedication and commitment to this cause has not only increased awareness in her own community, but nationwide.

Currently, Denise is involved with breast care specialists and other experts in developing a breast prosthetic device that can be worn immediately after mastectomies. She is personally working to provide these devices free to underserved breast cancer patients. As a result of her activism, Denise has been designated as a Lifetime Honorary Mrs. United

States and has received numerous other awards including the Governor's Certificate of Commendation.

Throughout her years of extensive commitment to the fight against breast cancer, Denise has maintained a balanced family life. She is a loving wife and mother of two outstanding children. Through her example, she has instilled in her children the importance of community service, civic involvement and positive activism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Denise Ashbaugh on the floor of the House today. Denise has not only made a difference in our community through her commitment to breast cancer education and fundraising, but she has been a beacon of hope for countless women and families who have confronted the challenges of breast cancer. Her tireless dedication and unwavering optimism, despite her own health challenges, is truly admirable. I commend Denise for her leadership in the fight against breast cancer and I thank her for her incredible commitment to this most important cause.

CONGRATULATING LEONARD
VERRASTRO AS THE LACKA-
WANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY
ASSOCIATION NAMES HIM 2006
MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Leonard A. Verrastro, a prominent businessman and community leader in the borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Verrastro was selected by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County as their 2006 "Man of the Year," an honor he truly deserves.

Born in 1923, Mr. Verrastro was one of eight children of the late Dominic Verrastro and the former Vita Grace Bochicchio. His father was a veteran of World War I and then worked in the anthracite coal mines before starting Leonard's Bar and Grill in Dunmore.

Leonard was the oldest of six boys, five of whom served in World War II. Mr. Verrastro was educated in Dunmore public schools after which he attended the University of Scranton.

Mr. Verrastro founded Best Dry Cleaners and later operated Leonard's Bar and Grill. He also founded the Dunmore Hoagie Shop and later went into the real estate business where he acquired many homes and converted them into remodeled apartments.

He is the last surviving charter member of the Dunmore Lions Club. He is also a member of the Dunmore American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Saint Anthony's Holy Name Society, the Willow Club, the Dunmore Senior Citizens Center, the Lackawanna County Columbus Day Association and the San Cataldo Club.

Mr. Verrastro is also well known for his political activity, having been first elected to the Dunmore Borough Council in 1963 where he has served for 44 years. He also served as Dunmore's representative on the Scranton Sewer Authority and as Lackawanna County

Treasurer for two years. He continues to serve as deputy treasurer.

Mr. Verrastro was married to the former Angelina Mecca, who died in 1996, and the couple had three children: Vita Grace Masucci, Carmel Ann Biko and Dominic Verrastro. He has seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Verrastro on being selected as "Man of the Year." His contributions to his community demonstrate his selflessness and commitment to improving the quality of life.

A TRIBUTE TO AFRICAN LODGE 459
NO. 63

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of African Lodge 459 No. 63, ardent supporters of the community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding organization and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their impressive accomplishments.

African Lodge 459 No. 63 was founded in 1921 from a group of Brooklyn's outstanding young men: Bro. Francis F. Giles, Widow Sons' No. 11, Mr. A.P. Portias, J. Francis Mickens, W.R. Lee, William Odell, Cornelius Moore and Samuel W. Green. Due to their success in Masonic circles, African Lodge 459 No. 63 was granted bona fide Lodge status and on November 19, 1921, they became an integral part of the Masonic Fraternity of the State of New York and the nation. The Lodge is appropriately named after African Lodge 459, the original lodge of the illustrious founder of Masonry among men of color in the United States, Prince Hall.

Down through the years, the Lodge has achieved and maintained a very prominent place in the jurisdiction. It has furnished the fraternity with numerous officers and is currently represented in the Grand Cabinet by R.W. Richard A. Grady, Judge Advocate, R.W. Elwood E. Gregory, District Deputy Grand Lecturer.

With 13 living members and 9 honorary members, their mission as Prince Hall Masons is to serve God through selfless service to others. They strive to give our youth a positive direction and high self-esteem; our elderly the love, respect and attention they deserve; and our poor and down trodden brothers and sisters whatever assistance they can provide. Over the past 84 years, they have raised funds for college scholarships, summer camps, reading clinics, community feeding programs, Christmas gifts for needy and/or hospitalized children, and their Knights of Pythagoras youth group.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of African Lodge 459 No. 63. This groups' deep commitment to love, support and assist one another makes them most worthy of our recognition today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H.
RICHARDSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his incredible dedication to the scientific community at Texas A&M University as Director of the Texas Transportation Institute and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering.

Dr. Richardson was born in the State of Massachusetts and was educated at Colby College in Maine and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree with honors in 1955, and the Sc.D. in 1958 from MIT. Shortly after graduation, he served as a faculty member, then as head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Association Dean for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 27 years. Under his leadership, he conducted and directed a wide-ranging research program, and made numerous publications of his research in mechanical engineering and transportation systems.

He then served as the first Chief Scientist of the U.S. Department of Transportation from 1970 to 1972, and joined the Texas A&M University System in 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering. Dr. Richardson brought together the three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program. In 1993, he became Director of the Texas Transportation Institute, the largest university-affiliated transportation research organization, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Engineering. Under his leadership, the Texas Transportation Institute has become home to nine national research centers with expenditures ranging to \$36 million.

Dr. Richardson has also received numerous accolades and awards from his peers for his exemplary academic leadership such as the recently awarded 2006 Roy W. Crum Distinguished Service Award from Transportation Research Board, Rufus Oldenberger Medal, Centennial Medal and the Benjamin Garver Lamme Medal by the American Association for Engineering Education; and in addition to these awards, he was elected to several notable organizations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Associate of the National Academies and the Research Council.

In his 22 years of academic service with the Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown exemplary leadership in building strong academic and research programs, thus helping make the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute one of the unparalleled centers for excellent education in engineering.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the strong academic leadership of Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for the Texas A&M University System.

MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING
BAND, STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior performance of the Marcus High School Marching Band of the 26th District of Texas. The band won the State championship at the UIL Class 5A Marching Contest in San Antonio, TX.

The breakdown of a travel bus did not deter the Marcus High School Band from capping off their marching season with excellence. At the rigorous UIL competition, Marcus surpassed 35 elite Texas programs before receiving the top honor of State champions. Marcus competed against all 5A Texas high schools reserve a spot in the State competition.

The band's achievements are the combined efforts of many extremely talented students, dedicated school administrators, and a strong support network of parents and community. The students have cultivated strong leadership skills among their peers, and excelled under the capable direction of Director Amanda Drinkwater.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of the Marcus High School Marching Band. I extend my sincere congratulations to these hard-working students, and I look forward to their future successes.

A TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. BINNS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor James J. Binns for his service to the people of Philadelphia. Jimmy Binns is a Philadelphia attorney specializing in litigation who has always been a friend of labor. His unflinching service to labor is shown by his achievement of 51 consecutive "not guilty" verdicts on behalf of those accused of picket line violence during the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers strike. It is clear his efforts enabled union members to unite to better their lot without fear of intimidation.

Mr. Binns is more than a friend of labor. He is also an important member of the community as seen through his service on numerous boards, including the Boy Scouts of America, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and St. Luke's Hospital. He also dedicated the James J. Binns Fitness Center at LaSalle University, his alma mater. Mr. Binns founded the Judeo Christian School at Roman Catholic. Additionally, Mr. Binns initiated the current fundraising drive to replace 65 motorcycles for the Philadelphia Police Highway Patrol.

Mr. Binns also chaired the Organized Crime Task Force of the Citizens Crime Commission and served as Pennsylvania's Boxing Commissioner under Governors Dick Thornburgh and Bob Casey. Due to his service he was inducted into the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall of Fame.

It is readily apparent that James J. Binns has played a vital role in the betterment of the community of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania