

Ford dealership in Monroeville, and he opened Sales Ford Lincoln Mercury in Grove Hill in 2002.

In addition to his professional successes, J.W. has long been an active supporter of numerous community organizations. He served as governor of the Alabama District of Kiwanis and was one of the seven trustees on the Kiwanis International Board of Directors.

He is also active in the Monroeville Chamber of Commerce and has served on the board of directors of the University of Mobile. J.W. has also been an active deacon of the First Baptist Church in Monroeville.

Mr. Speaker, I commend J.W. Sales for his long-standing commitment to the community and for his many professional achievements. I know his wife, Wendy, his family, and his many friends join with me in praising his accomplishments and in celebrating this latest milestone.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND FRED
RANGLES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today I have the privilege of recognizing a dear friend of mine. Reverend Fred Randles of Sulphur Springs, who is retiring as minister of music after serving the church and community for the past 25 years.

Reverend Randles has dedicated his life to making music, for which he has received certificates of appreciation from 4 U.S. Presidents and the U.S. Congress. Additionally, the governments of Cozumel, Mexico, Bahamas, and the entertainment division of Disney World have recognized him.

His youth choirs have toured extensively, singing throughout the U.S. and in Ireland, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and the Bahamas as well as on a number of cruise ships. The youth choir under his direction has also appeared on Good Morning America and the Early Show on CBS.

Reverend Randles also has enjoyed many achievements with the senior adult choir known as the Silvertone Choir. Under his direction, this group has recorded for Benson Music Company and performed at a variety of conventions and conferences. They have had the privilege to perform at conferences in Glorieta, New Mexico; Ridgecrest, North Carolina; and Williamsburg, Virginia.

A particularly noteworthy accomplishment is Rev. Randles' assistance in originating the Northeast Texas Symphony in conjunction with Sarah Smith, Scott York, and others from Texas A&M Commerce. This symphonic group performed its first concert at First Baptist Church and has grown considerably with his assistance.

Reverend Randles has been asked to conduct funeral services of more than 1000 people and officiate, sing for or do both at the wedding ceremonies of more than 200 couples. He has also provided music for a variety of functions, including the Dairy Festival, the annual Hospital Christmas Tree lighting, baseball games, and area worship services.

Reverend Randles is married to Jane and they have one daughter, Natalie, who is mar-

ried to Darren Brown. Olivia Brown is their granddaughter and a second grandchild is on the way.

Due in no small part to Natalie's violin playing, Jane has worked to bring a beginning strings program to the Sulphur Springs I.S.D. This program has brought orchestral music to the lives of children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity.

Rev. Randles has made a lasting contribution to his community, and in celebrating his retirement, I join his family, church, and friends in expressing appreciation for the many ways he has shared his music, faith, and fellowship. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Rev. Fred Randles for his many years of service and wishing him well in his retirement years.

DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, on August 14, 2006, the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Democratic Pacific Union was formally inaugurated in Taipei, Taiwan. The ceremony drew 76 dignitaries from 23 countries, including the presidents and vice presidents of Taiwan, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Palau.

The Democratic Pacific Union's goal is to promote democracy and encourage cooperation among its 28 member democracies. So far, the Union has planned regular regional meetings in the East and the West Pacific regions, initiated the Pacific Economic Advisory Group and the Pacific Congressional Caucus, established a training program for typhoon and flood disaster reduction, offered scholarships for students to study in Taiwan, planned a Pacific university network in Taiwan, and invited women to Taiwan to discuss women issues in the Pacific region.

On December 8–10, the Taiwan Chapter of the Pacific Congressional Caucus will be holding a special symposium in Taipei, Taiwan. The symposium will examine critical issues such as the legislature and democracy, the legislature and electoral process, and the legislature and campaign finance. Fifty or more legislators from DPU's member states will be invited. U.S. lawmakers are especially welcome to attend this symposium.

We should give encouragement to the leaders of the Democratic Pacific Union by endorsing its goals for democratic and economic cooperation in the Pacific region. I am certain that the Union will attract more members and win even wider international attention and recognition in the months and years ahead.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUTTON AREA COMMUNITY, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, for three decades, Sutton Area Community, Inc., has

served as the voice of New Yorkers residing on the East Side of Manhattan between 52nd and 59th Street, from Second Avenue to the East River. Founded to maintain and improve the quality of life in that historic neighborhood, Sutton Area Community (SAC) has united area residents on a myriad of concerns and its ranks now include over 2000 dues-paying members. On October 22nd, SAC celebrated its thirtieth anniversary at the internationally renowned Perigord restaurant, at which its members honored their community's extraordinarily dedicated and effective representative in the New York State Assembly, the Honorable Jonathan Bing.

The dedicated members of Sutton Area Community, currently led by the estimable Mary Clare Bergin, have been at the forefront of efforts the surrounding community. Its volunteers have spearheaded local beautification initiatives. Thanks to the tireless efforts of SAC's members, seasonal planting and iron fence tree enclosures have been installed between Sutton Place and Second Avenue, and dozens of trees have been planted on and around First Avenue. In addition, SAC members serve as conscientious caretakers of three "pocket" parks at 54th, 57th and 58th streets. The carefully maintained greenery and flowers have created a ripple effect, inspiring owners and residents of neighboring buildings to make improvements to their own landscaping, making a community already renowned for its quiet elegance a charm an even more idyllic oasis for residents and visitors alike.

The tranquil quality of life of Sutton Place and its environs is rendered even more remarkable for its proximity to midtown Manhattan, the most bustling and thriving commercial district in the entire United States. A constant concern for Sutton Area Community residents is the considerable traffic congestion due to the neighborhood's close proximity to the Queensborough Bridge and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive. After the New York City Department of Transportation made an ill-considered decision to close the 48th street ramp onto the FDR Drive, forcing over tens of thousands of motorists onto local streets, SAC worked with elected officials and civic organizations to overturn this ill-considered decision. Their persuasive and persistent lobbying ultimately won the day, and the ramp was reopened.

In addition, the members of Sutton Area Community successfully fought a proposal to eliminate local bus stops. Such a move would have had very negative consequences on the neighborhood's significant population of seniors, and I was pleased to be joined with SAC members, other elected officials and Manhattan Community Board 6 to urge successfully that the bus stops be restored. It is a testament to SAC and the strength of their organization that the stops remained in place.

Armed with the knowledge that clean and safe streets are keys to maintaining the quality of life in an intense urban environment, SAC works closely with the 17th Precinct of the New York Police Department. Its members have formed one of the largest groups of volunteer "blockwatchers" in New York City. SAC also has contracted with the Doe Fund, a not-for-profit organization that provides jobs for the homeless, to improve sweeping and sanitation of the streets.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in saluting the tremendous