

Michael Bilirakis served the Ninth Congressional District of Florida from 1983–2006. Michael was a standout member of the United States House of Representatives, and his presence is surely missed on Capitol Hill. A native of my home State of Florida, Michael worked steadfastly for his constituents for 23 years, and his lifetime of civic-minded public service has not gone unnoticed.

I had the pleasure of serving on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee with Michael, and his leadership as chairman of the VA Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations was unparalleled. A veteran of the United States Air Force, Michael spent his career working hard to serve the best interests of our Nation's veterans. Michael's strong traditional values and service-oriented spirit were always visible in his everyday work on Capitol Hill.

It is truly appropriate and deserving then, for Congress to name the VA spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida after Michael Bilirakis, and I thank my colleague and fellow Florida delegation member JEFF MILLER for sponsoring this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE LAND OF
LAKES BOYS CHOIR FOR A SILVER
AT THE WORLD CHOIR
GAMES

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Land of Lakes Boys Choir, headquartered in Elk River, Minnesota, for their exemplary musical achievements and the pride and inspiration they instill in our community.

The Land of Lakes Boys Choir is an extremely talented group of boys who have brought global recognition to the great State of Minnesota. These children have worked tirelessly to perfect their skills and talents, participating in many prestigious competitions. They attended the World Choir Games in Germany, France, and Austria and recently received a silver medal there. And they will also be going to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

Since 1976, this choir program has helped many boys pursue their passion for music. In 2004, the Land of Lakes Boys Choir received the International Trebby Award for "Best Boys' Choir Album" with its CD "Steal Away." And most recently, in 2006, it was awarded the Grand Champion of Cruise Festivals Music Festivals, for their outstanding performance.

This organization has been a helpful extra-curricular program for many young boys, teaching them self-discipline, character and leadership. The individuals who have sacrificed their time to train and work with these boys should also be recognized for their continued efforts to mentor these children.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Land of Lakes Boys Choir for its tremendous achievements in music and community service. I know that I join so many in Minnesota when I say that I am proud to have these boys as American ambassadors at this year's Olympic Games.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN M.
HAIRSTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of John M. Hairston and in recognition of his outstanding leadership, vision and dedication to empowering those around him at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Hairston earned his first degree in English from Bluefield State College and later went on to earn his master's degree in Education Administration from Cleveland State University. He also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Public Policy at Harvard University. Prior to working at NASA, Mr. Hairston worked in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for almost thirty years, where he served as an English teacher, Staff Development Director and Chief of the Community Relations Department.

Mr. Hairston's leadership has been vital in the success of the NASA Glenn Research Center. He worked tirelessly to promote scientific literacy and to develop outreach programs that help economically disadvantaged communities and businesses. Mr. Hairston worked within NASA as the Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Education. His guidance helped to ensure that NASA's educational programs were effective. Mr. Hairston has worked to make manifest NASA's vision of educating the next generation of explorers by developing criteria to ensure that their programs are effective and that they attract students from all of Cleveland's diverse communities. He succeeded in developing strong partnerships between the NASA Glenn Research Center and Greater Cleveland Community.

Mr. Hairston has been the recipient of numerous awards for his outstanding work at the NASA Glenn Research Center. NASA honored him several times by awarding him with the Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Medal for Outstanding Leadership, and their Education Distinguished Service Award. He has also been the recipient of the Presidential Rank Award and the Leadership Cleveland Civic Volunteer of the Year award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of John M. Hairston and in recognition of his outstanding leadership and vision. May his dedication to his work and to the community serve as an example for us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
JAMES ROBERT "BOB" WOOLSEY,
JR.

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay respect to the life and accomplishments of a fellow Mississippian who was tragically taken from us Wednesday, July 9th, 2008. Dr.

James Robert "Bob" Woolsey, Jr., 72, was a man of great accomplishment. He is survived by his wife, five sons, two daughters, and his four grandchildren. Dr. Woolsey was involved in community and civic activity throughout his life. He was a member of the United States Navy as well as an Eagle Scout, a Mason, and a member Oxford University United Methodist Church. He was dedicated to his chosen field and went on to become the Director of the Center for Marine Resources and Environmental Technology and the Seabed Technology Research Center at The University of Mississippi. Throughout his life, Dr. Woolsey served his country, his state, and even the international community during his tenure with the United Nations as a consulting geologist. I thank my colleagues for remembering Dr. Woolsey and his family at this time.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR ROY
HUFFINGTON

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, last Friday marked the passing of a tremendous life. Ambassador Roy Huffington lived 90 very full years. He was larger than life. Roy was an entrepreneur, a veteran, a philanthropist, a husband and father, and a patriot. To me, he was a dear friend.

He first served his country in the Navy in World War II. When he returned, he struck out on his own in the energy business and pioneered the development of the industry in Indonesia. He was enormously successful in everything he did, and he used his success to give back to society. The charities he founded and supported raised millions for good causes.

President George H.W. Bush appointed Roy as Ambassador to Austria in the early 1990s, a critical time for the region. His tenure saw the fall of the Berlin Wall and the beginnings of real democracy in Eastern and Central Europe. Roy used his position to forge relationships between Eastern and Western Europe and to encourage the investment that was necessary to build up former Soviet states and create new opportunities for the people who had lived so long under tyranny. He continued this work until his passing. I have fond memories of times we spent together in Davos at the World Economic Forum. He never missed one of those annual meetings.

I had the privilege of getting to know Roy and his wonderful wife Phyllis as we campaigned for their son, our former colleague Michael, as he was running for the United States Senate. Roy and Phyllis were incredibly warm, boisterous, funny and down-to-earth. When Phyllis passed away 5 years ago, everyone who knew her felt the terrible loss. Roy's unexpected passing on Friday was a tragic loss for the family and friends who loved him. We take comfort in the fact that he lived every day with a tremendous zeal for life.