

22,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico will celebrate its 100th anniversary on March 27, 2011. For 100 years, its volunteer efforts have supported the needs of the country and of local communities, making it the country's oldest American service organization operating exclusively in this country.

I would like to specifically recognize the clubs in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas—Garland Noon Exchange, Mesquite Noon Exchange, Rowlett Noon Exchange, and Lake Highlands Exchange. Members of these clubs give countless hours to the prevention of child abuse, youth projects, and other community service projects. Exchange Club members also promote the American spirit through their core values of family, community, and nation.

This organization provides an invaluable service to those in the community who truly need assistance. Over the years, thousands of individuals and families have been blessed by the men and women of the Exchange Clubs.

I am pleased today to recognize the Exchange Clubs for their contributions to Dallas County. To all the men and women who give of their time and efforts so generously, on behalf of all the constituents of the Fifth District, I would like to extend our most sincere gratitude.

IN HONOR OF JIM MANNASSERO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to raise a glass of scotch in memory of Jim Mannassero, who died late last year following a brief illness. Jim was a giant among giants in the Salinas Valley's \$4 billion produce industry. He was involved for decades in vegetable production at all levels and was admired as a true leader by colleagues and competitors alike. So while you may have never heard of Jim Manassero, I can guarantee that every member of Congress has eaten something that Jim helped to grow.

Those fortunate enough to know Jim will remember his gravely voice—a voice that he never hesitated to use to tell it as he saw it. Jim was always free with his opinions and observations, but he never let those opinions stray from his own deep knowledge and wisdom. When Jim spoke, you always knew that there was thought behind his words, even if those words came with a kick in the pants. He never left you in doubt about where you stood with him. But Jim's leadership and authority didn't come from being loud or pushy, it came from unflinching honesty and deep integrity. So while you may not have agreed with Jim, you always trusted him. Jim's friends will also remember his sense of style, with one pant leg tucked into his boot and accessorized whenever he could with a glass of scotch.

Jim worked for D'Arrigo Bros. of California for thirty two years, serving as Vice President of California Operations for the last 25. He was a member of Class I of the prestigious California Ag Leadership Program. He was the current Chairman of the Monterey County Agriculture Advisory Group which counsels the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on issues facing the agricultural industry. He was a founding member, and past President, of the

Salinas River Coalition, where he worked with other Salinas Valley land owners to reduce the flood risk to Salinas Valley Communities and the surrounding farmland. Since 1979, Jim served as a member of the California Lettuce Research Board, serving as the organization's Chairman from 1997 to 1999. Jim served as Chairman of the Board of the Grower-Shipper Association in 1985–1986. Just last year he was the recipient of the Association's highest honor, the E.E. "Gene" Harden Award for Lifetime Achievement in Central Coast Agriculture. The additional boards, commissions, organizations and committees on which Jim served are too numerous to mention but, it is enough to say that Jim did the work of a dozen people. The United States is a better place for Jim's efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Jim leaves behind his wife, Ginny, his two children, Victoria and Paul, and one grandson, Julian. I know that I speak for the whole House in extending to them and to Jim's friends and colleagues our deepest condolences.

HONORING SHEVCHENKO AND ALDRIDGE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, March is a month when Ukrainians worldwide pay tribute to Taras Shevchenko, whose monument here in Washington, D.C. bears testament to his prescient writings, prophetic visions for human dignity, and aspirations for the worth of each individual. It is with deepest respect for his life after purchase out of serfdom, and that of his friend Ira Aldridge, purchased out of slavery; that the very idea of liberty took flame out of the repressive conditions of their forbears. Their lives deserve recognition and revelation, decade after decade, so the world remembers and honors those whose paths cleared the way for our own.

[From the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation Update, Mar. 8, 2011]

HONORING A FRIENDSHIP BONDED IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS FROM ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO WASHINGTON, DC

(By Robert A. McConnell)

While February is Black History Month, a month when attention is given specifically to the contribution of Afro-Americans to our country, our society, and culture, March is the month that Ukrainians worldwide honor Taras Shevchenko. For Ukrainian-Americans, both months are a time of reflection on a very special and unique friendship between one of Ukraine's greatest historical figures, Taras Shevchenko, and a famously talented black American, Ira Aldridge.

Although both men died in the 1860s, one in Russia and the other in Poland, and though both are little known to the general public in America, both of their images are present in the capital city of the United States. A mere two and a half miles apart here in Washington DC stand monuments to Taras Shevchenko and to Ira Aldridge. The first was born a Ukrainian serf who was purchased out of bondage in order for his immense talents to blossom; the second was born a Negro in New York who, because of the color of his skin, had to leave his country to find the full glory of his God-given talent.

At the corner of 22nd and P streets in Northwest Washington stands the figure of

Taras Shevchenko, a monument to the man, his writing, his profound commentaries on human dignity, pleas of help for the plight of the downtrodden and his aspirations for his country, struggling under tsarist repression. Engraved in the granite is his hope for Ukraine: "When shall we get our Washington, to promulgate his new and righteous law?" On the other side of the city stands The Ira Aldridge Theatre on the Howard University campus, constructed in memory of a great thespian talent and as a symbol of challenges overcome, paths revealed for other talents to follow.

Portraits of both men hang in that theater, portraits painted by Taras Shevchenko and donated to Howard University in 1967 from the archives of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States.

Born a serf in Ukraine, Shevchenko was destined for a lifetime of servitude. Yet when his owner left Ukraine for St. Petersburg, Russia, he took the young Shevchenko along. In St. Petersburg, Shevchenko's artistic talents were revealed. In 1838, the city's artistic circles succeeded in raising 2,500 rubles to purchase Shevchenko's freedom. Once free, he became a student at the Imperial Academy of Arts and his artwork and poetic writing flourished. His poems glorified Ukraine and demanded freedom and justice for all oppressed nations and classes of people.

Shevchenko returned to Ukraine in 1845 to find great injustices. His poems criticized the tsarist regime and chided the aristocracy's oppression of the peasants. For these expressions, he was arrested and deported from Ukraine to exile in a remote part of Asian Russia, incarcerated in a military penal facility and, by the decree of the Tsar, denied writing and drawing materials. Despite the Tsar's orders and the incarcerations terrible cost to his health, Shevchenko secretly composed some of his most powerful works while imprisoned and in political exile. Moreover, at the same time, Shevchenko's Ukrainian and Russian friends, including Count and Countess Fyodor Tolstoy, worked to secure his freedom again. Finally, ten years after his arrest, Shevchenko was released. Forbidden to return to Ukraine, he returned to St. Petersburg, where he soon met the American Ira Aldridge.

Although Aldridge had been born in New York, as his immense talents became apparent, he found his opportunities limited due to the significant discrimination against blacks. He chose to emigrate to England in 1824 and began acting in small London theatres. Receiving notice and praise, he was soon performing in England's finest theatres and began to tour outside London. By 1852, Aldridge, the first black to act in white roles in Shakespeare's plays, left for his first European tour. Receiving acclaim everywhere he traveled, he returned to London a theatrial hero.

In 1858, Aldridge accepted an invitation from the Russian Imperial Theatre to perform in St. Petersburg. Shevchenko attended the opening performance and the two men were introduced.

There are numerous letters and notes commenting upon their meeting and friendship. One of Tolstoy's daughters, Katherine, served as an early translator between Aldridge and Shevchenko and wrote about the experience and their friendship. Shevchenko attended Aldridge's performances. Aldridge visited Shevchenko's studio and posed for the artist. They visited one another often and spent time in the same social circles, one that included many artists, performers, intellectuals.

Their friendship was unique since they had in common not only the creativity of their

personalities and their love of the arts, but their shared experiences of social oppression and their dreams of a better future for their people. Though free, famous, with powerful friends, living in the world of Russian aristocracy, neither seemed able to forget his past, the plight of his people.

Those who wrote about their friendship noted that they often sang together. Aldridge greatly appreciated the sorrowful and melodic Ukrainian songs that captured the unfortunate plight of the people of Ukraine. Shevchenko, in turn, loved the songs of the Negro South, no doubt to great extent for the same reasons.

When Aldridge returned to England, he took with him a portrait of Shevchenko by a Russian artist. Aldridge returned to Russia several years later but by then Shevchenko had passed away. Between 1861 and 1866, Aldridge made several tours of the tsarist empire including three trips to Ukraine, to Shevchenko's homeland, trips that had been denied to the great poet, artist, and patriot. Ira Aldridge never returned to the United States, however, he did live to know of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War.

Both of these men, historic giants in their artistic fields and in their messages about the struggles of mankind for dignity and the perseverance of individuals, died on foreign soil far from their homelands. Aldridge's body remains in Poland. Eventually, Shevchenko's body was returned to Ukraine from Russia. Their unique friendship remains a story for the ages; it is fitting that among the monuments to their lives and contributions there are the two in Washington, DC, just two and a half miles apart. A friendship that brought them together thousands of miles from here, eventually finds them in the capital of Aldridge's native land, respected and honored, with Shevchenko's question still unanswered: when will Ukraine get its "new and righteous law?"

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2011 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2011 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association was founded in 1967. Citizens formed the organization to give a voice to community initiatives and collective action in Dale City. Today, the organization's purpose is to represent the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Members do this with robust beautification efforts, land use advocacy and volunteer responses to community needs.

The Association hosts an annual awards banquet to honor individuals and organizations that show an exceptional devotion to their community and public service. It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2011 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards:

High School Teacher of the Year: Major William Brannen.

Middle School Teacher of the Year: Amy Crotty.

Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Terri Faulkner.

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year: Alexis Simpson.

Youth Environmental and Conservation Scholarship: Shaila Bills.

Kathie Feeney Nurse of the Year: Gail D. Russell.

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year: Officer Dave Endrizzi.

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year: Captain Linda Wortham.

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Sergeant. Dennis Oden.

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Tinashe Banda.

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Cadet of the Year: Michael Cajayon.

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Lieutenant Chris Eddy.

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Firefighter of the Year: Technician I Andrew Marsh.

Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Timothy Angels, Master Deputy Wayland Thompson.

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Susan Canfield.

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Timothy J. Rupert.

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Award: Lillian Garland.

Business of the Year: DEP Copying and Printing Center.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2011 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards for their dedication to building and maintaining a healthy community. Each recipient has made an impact on Dale City, and with these awards we hope to show them that their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ANA MARIA GRACE, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2011

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March.

Today, I pay tribute to Dr. Ana Maria Grace of South Pasadena. As a physician, Dr. Grace has dedicated her career to helping individuals and patients in need, in addition to assisting them in attaining a better understanding of various medical conditions.

Dr. Grace discovered her passion for helping others at an early age. Upon receiving a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from California State University, Fullerton, she went on to attend medical school at the University of Wisconsin. Ana completed her residency at the University of Southern California and the University of Arizona.

Currently, Dr. Grace is an attending physician at two locations. She works in the Cecilia Gonzalez De La Hoya Cancer Center at White

Memorial Medical Center, WMMC, and at the Radiation Oncology Services at Albert C. Mak, M.D., Inc. In addition to being a dedicated physician, Ana simultaneously has various roles within her profession. She is currently a member of the WMMC Cancer Committee, serving as the committee's chairperson since 2008, and Director of WMMC's Cancer Center.

Dr. Grace's primary focus has been senior citizens and the Spanish speaking population. As a committee member of WMMC's Senior Center, Dr. Grace has helped with setting outreach and service goals which have included making presentations to senior citizens regarding cancer awareness, screening and prevention. With her Spanish speaking skills, Dr. Grace has also been able to communicate medical information about common malignancies to the public, with the ultimate goal of reducing the risk for cancer and emphasizing early diagnosis. On Spanish news stations such as Univision, Telemundo, and Azteca Dr. Grace has discussed various topics such as cancer awareness, and the effects of second-hand smoking.

The list of Dr. Grace's public presentations is impressive. Since 2005, in addition to appearing on television interviews, Ana has lectured at nursing homes and at health fairs where she has spoken about lung cancer, breast cancer, and colon cancer awareness and prevention. Dr. Grace also holds professional society memberships with the Los Angeles Radiological Society, American Medical Association, and Glendale Adventist Medical Center Cancer Committee, among others.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Dr. Ana Maria Grace, for her exceptional service to the community.

2011 BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Brain Awareness Week (BAW) and the benefits of this informative week in educating students on brain science in my congressional district and across the country. Brain Awareness Week, launched in 1996, brings together the Society for Neuroscience, the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and 2400 other organizations in 76 countries which share a common goal of improving public awareness of brain and nervous system research.

During Brain Awareness Week, which is being held March 14–20, neuroscientists around the world educate K–12 students, senior citizens and the public at large on the wonders of the human brain. These activities include tours of neuroscience laboratories, museum exhibitions and classroom discussions on elements of the human brain. In my congressional district, Shawnee High School in Medford Township will recognize Brain Awareness Week during their 6th annual Brain Day on March 24. High school students enrolled in the psychology course will be displaying interactive exhibits and explaining functions of the brain to their community. Today, in recognition