

TO HONOR JOHN M. GILLIS, RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY W. BOSWORTH, JR. MEMORIAL CITIZENSHIP AWARD

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished and revered public servant of Quincy, Massachusetts, Mr. John M. Gillis. John has served as a Norfolk County commissioner since 1992, but has been an active member of the Massachusetts community for many decades.

A lifelong resident of the Quincy area, John attended Adams Elementary School, Quincy Point Junior High School, and Quincy High School. Motivated by service to his country, he enlisted in the Marines during World War II and fought bravely in the Battle of Saipan. John then enrolled at Northeastern University and received his accounting degree in 1953.

John's exemplary background in public service spans from his dedication as a Quincy firefighter stationed at Central Headquarters following World War II to his post as City Clerk in Quincy. Of his nearly four decades as clerk, John asserts they were his best in city government because he was able to champion the "little guy."

In recognition of his commitment to the common good, John will be the honored recipient of the Henry W. Bosworth Jr. Memorial Citizenship Award— aptly named in memory of Quincy Sun founder Henry Bosworth, John's long-time friend—on March 27th. I extend to John my most heartfelt congratulations, and I urge my constituents and all Americans to follow his example of service and leadership.

HONORING TOM BRYSON

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tom Bryson upon his retirement as President and CEO of WJRT-TV. Tom retired on February 28th with over 25 years of service.

After graduating from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, Tom worked with Group W Radio in Washington, DC covering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Over the years he has worked for various stations throughout the United States before accepting a position at WJRT-TV and has called it home for the past 25 years. Tom has accepted several leadership roles within the Michigan broadcasting industry including President of the MAB Board of Directors, and Chairman of the MAB Foundation. He was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2007 and received the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Communities served by WJRT are better because of his dedicated service. He has provided guidance and direction to several organizations including: United Way of Genesee County, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan,

the School of Health Professions and Studies for the University of Michigan-Flint, Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan, Genesys Charity Classic, Kiwanis Club of Flint, the Flint Salvation Army, the Flint Area Chamber of Commerce, the Genesee Focus Council, and the Genesee County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Tom and his wife, Mary, have three daughters and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Tom Bryson and wish him a happy retirement. He has been a great influence on Flint and on me personally. I am a better person because of Tom Bryson. I wish him the best in the future and thank him for his service to our community.

HONORING WES LEONARD

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2011*

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wes Leonard, the Fennville Blackhawks Basketball Team, and the entire community who came together in the aftermath of tragedy that has been followed by our entire nation.

The Blackhawks finished their season this Monday, capturing a Class C District Championship trophy before their season ended with a 23-1 record.

But theirs was no ordinary run for a high school state basketball title.

Their star player, Wes Leonard, collapsed and tragically passed away after scoring the game-winning basket for his team on March 3, the final game of the regular season.

With that basket, Wes Leonard led his team to a perfect winning record during his junior year. According to all who knew him, this 16-year-old student exhibited the character, discipline, and affability that made him both respected and loved within the Fennville Community. His school superintendent described him as "the quintessential all-American kid." While attending Wes's family visitation, I was struck by how many members of rival school teams in their letter jackets came to pay their respects to Wes, the team he led, and his family. More than 1,500 people attended his funeral service at Christ Memorial Church in Holland. These facts are sure testaments to what this young man meant to the Fennville community.

In a massive outpouring of support from his community and even people across the nation and world, fans came out in record numbers to cheer on the Blackhawks, who played their first District playoff game on March 7, just three days after Wes's death. Even in this chamber, as I wore this orange ribbon in Wes's memory and in support of the team, colleagues and strangers who asked about its meaning knew the story of Wes and the Blackhawks and asked me to pass along condolences and encouragement.

Sellout crowds packed the Hope College DeVos Fieldhouse to witness the team's playoff games in person, and scores more followed along online and saw highlights on such programs as SportsCenter on ESPN.

The Blackhawks played on honorably through it all, and I want to congratulate them on an outstanding, admirable, and courageous

finish to their season. The true mark of character is how one responds to adversity. These young men have shown unbelievable character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this House to join me in honoring this team and commending all who rallied around them. I would like to express condolences on behalf of myself and the people of the 2nd District to the family, friends and teammates of Wes Leonard. And I would like to honor this young man for his leadership that was an inspiration to all who knew him.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROL NAOMI TANITA, 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 stand to laud the tireless efforts of Carol Naomi Tanita of Monterey Park. Born in the Boyle Heights region of Los Angeles, Carol grew up committed to her education. Upon graduating high school with honors, she attended the University of Southern California, where she attained her bachelor's and master's degrees in the field of education, and earned her specialist credential in bilingual cross-cultural education in Japanese.

Carol has maintained an active spirit for all her passions in life, and continues to be involved with the community as a tireless volunteer and parent. She served as a member of the PTA of Brightwood and Repetto Elementary Schools for 12 years, and received numerous awards, including the title of Parent of the Year at Repetto Elementary School for her exemplary service.

In 2007, Ms. Tanita was presented with the Community Service Award by the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Her continuous efforts were always appreciated, as she repeatedly received the Honorary Service Award and Continuing Service Award at Mark Keppel High School. Upon the graduation of her children, Carol continued to be active with the PTSA and the Mark Keppel Alliance. As a result of her unwavering commitment, she was awarded the Golden Oak—the highest award the California PTA gives for outstanding service to schools and communities. During 20 years of committed service, Carol has surpassed 9,000 volunteer hours.

Ms. Tanita also serves the community beyond the realm of education. For two years, she served on the F.A.C.E.S.'s Board at Pacific Clinics and the Family Advisory Council at the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center, which serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Currently, Carol dedicates her time to Parents In Community Inclusion (PIC), a group which mentors families and educators in creating an inclusive community for special needs individuals.

Carol served as a parent volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America as well, when her son Nicholas enrolled as a Cub Scout. Over the years, she served as the Parent Committee