

I want to congratulate Kenneth Feld and Ringling Bros. on the occasion of the 10 anniversary of the Center for Elephant Conservation and I invite my colleagues to come and visit this unique and inspiring facility.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS AT
FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Denton County organization Friends of the Family for celebrating its 25th anniversary. This is a great accomplishment, and I am proud to have an establishment such as this in the 26th Congressional District of Texas.

Friends of the Family is an organization that works to provide crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, support services, and advocacy for all those impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault. The organization also facilitates community awareness and involvement through education, information, and violence prevention programs.

From a starting budget of \$10,000 in 1980 to this year's \$1.5 million budget, the organization has grown a great deal in 25 years. With the program employing licensed professional counselors, social workers and psychologists, instead of relying solely on volunteers, they now serve about 7,000 people annually.

Congratulations to Denton County's Friends of the Family on their anniversary. Twenty-five years of service is a milestone to be celebrated.

IN HONOR OF THE CLEVELAND
INDIANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Major League Baseball's Cleveland Indians Organization, in partnership with the Hispanic Community Services Coalition as they unite in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and Viva Cleveland!

Viva Cleveland!, a joyous event, will be held at Jacobs Field on September 16th and will showcase the Parade of Flags representing 21 Latino nations, and carried aloft by youth of Hispanic heritage. The Parade of Flags promises to reflect the diverse, rich and colorful fabric that comprises the brilliant mosaic of our Cleveland community.

The players, administrators and fans of the Cleveland Indians organization carry on a century-old legacy of community outreach focused on cultural and charitable causes throughout northeast Ohio. Their individual and collective service continues to provide an array of life-enriching programs for baseball fans of all ages. The vital programs implemented by the Cleveland Indians and in partnership with other community agencies, serves to elevate the quality of life for countless families and individuals throughout our community. The

Cleveland Indians' support of the young people of our region is offered through three programs: Educational, Recreational and Humanitarian. These programs provide the necessary support and guidance to assist our youth in attaining their educational and professional goals, and also promotes strength in character by fostering self-confidence.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the Cleveland Indians Organization, as they partnership with the Hispanic Community Services Coalition to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and Viva Cleveland! Their collective and individual efforts serves to celebrate our diversity and provides humanitarian assistance where needed, thereby enhancing the lives of countless people, and bolstering the spirit of the City of Cleveland, and far beyond.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF "LIGHTS ON AFTER-
SCHOOL!"

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 66, a bill supporting the goals and ideal of "Lights On After-school," a national celebration of after-school programs.

While my district of El Paso, Texas is fortunate to be served by several excellent after-school programs, I am here to say we need more.

As more families have two parents who work every day—and single parents struggle to balance the duties of providing for their kids and caring for them—more children are left without supervision after school. The After-school Alliance estimates there are 14.3 million of these children across America.

Without available after-school programs, many of these children will be left to wander the streets between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the time of day when juvenile crime is most likely to occur and children are most likely to experiment with drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes. Or they might just sit in front of the television or video game console all afternoon.

By creating more after-school programs—at schools, community centers, and faith-based organizations—we provide children a fun and productive place to go after school. Also, parents have peace of mind knowing their kids are safe and are thus better able to focus on their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the American people support after-school programs, and so should we. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting "Lights on Afterschool" and the movement for more afterschool programs in America.

NORTH TEXANS EMBRACE A VIC-
TIM AND NURTURE A SURVIVOR

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell America about a very special girl named

Aurica and the very special people who are helping her.

In April, 2005, Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE led a Congressional delegation on a fact-finding mission to Albania, Moldova, Italy and Greece. Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE and I accompanied Ms. PRYCE to see the effects of the growing epidemic of sex trafficking in women and children. Our finding? That sex trafficking is a real and growing threat to women and children everywhere. Our solution? To fight for the rights of these precious victims one person at a time.

It was during our trip to Moldova, that I first met Aurica. What an amazing young woman. We were visiting a shelter housing girls—most in their teens—who had been victims of sex trafficking. These women had been brought back to their homeland and were being taken care of with the hopes they could in some way return to normal lives after their horrendous experiences.

We had spoken with these women and were leaving when the director of the program said there was one young woman who was unable to join the group. She was bedridden and very ill, but was willing to meet with us. Thus began our adventure. What we saw was a beautiful 19-year old with haunted eyes—unable to walk, unable to eat, unable to leave her bed.

Aurica had left her country to go to Turkey to work in a shop, hoping to send money home to her family to help support them. While she was there, she was kidnapped and placed in a building with others like herself who had been tricked and kidnapped to become sex slaves. In her desperation to avoid the plight she heard from others, she climbed out of a window in the dead of night. But it was late and she was tired. At the sixth floor, she lost her grip and fell to the ground. When she was found, her back was broken, and her leg, and her pelvis were broken. After being treated at the hospital, she was taken to a prison. The iron walls of confinement did little to improve her condition.

Her doctors and her family secured her release from Turkey. She was brought home and was treated at the International Organization for Migration. And it was here, amid the dark clouds of pain and suffering, that I saw Aurica's sunlight. And so she was so brave, so tough, and yet so in need of so much help. She needed surgery. But the surgery would have been difficult if not impossible in her country. We talked to her. We could see the pain on her face. Yet we could also see the courage in her eyes.

It has been said that every journey begins with a single step. That April day, I decided to do my part to fight sex trafficking by saving at least one person—Aurica. And we embarked on a journey to give her the health care she deserved, desired, and desperately needed. The first step was a phone call. Pedro Nosnik is a specialist in neurology and internal medicine. I explained to Dr. Nosnik what had happened to Aurica and asked a simple question: Can you help? Dr. Nosnik set us up with Dr. Ralph Raushbaum of the Texas Back Institute in Plano, the largest spine specialty clinic in the United States. TBI physicians, led by Dr. Barton Sachs, volunteered to treat Aurica at no expense. This type of care would normally cost more than \$200,000.

The next step was getting her to the hospital. Before the treatment, we had to deal with the issue of travel. Her condition ruled out

a flight on a commercial airline. She would need to fly on a plane equipped for patients. Once more, Americans were there to donate their services. Rod Crane, the CEO of MedFlight of Ohio offered to transport Aurica on an air ambulance. Normally, this would cost \$80,000. But Rod agreed to pay for the flight and for a doctor to travel with Aurica.

The next step was the actual surgery and recovery. Once Aurica got to Dallas, she got the treatment she needed. But the road wasn't easy. She underwent surgery at TBI. Dr. Barton Sachs led a team of physicians during the initial delicate spinal surgery and aftercare. This team included William Struthers, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Ted Wen, M.D., Radiologist, Nayan Patel, M.D., Physiatrist, John Josephs, M.D., General Surgeon, Stephen Rubin, D.O., Anesthesiologist, Son Do, M.D., Gastroenterologist, Mike Gross, M.D., Urologist, James Montgomery, M.D., Anesthesiologist, Andrew R. Block, Ph.D., Psychologist, Michael Blackmon, M.D., Intensive Care Specialist, and Mark McQuaid, M.D., General Vascular Surgeon. This was followed by a second surgery under the care of Dr. Alan Jones at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. After that, she spent three weeks recovering at the highly-acclaimed Zale Lipshy Center located on the UT Southwestern campus. All donated.

Finally, Aurica's journey took her to four months of recovery in outpatient physical therapy. Since she needed a place to stay, we contacted David Tesmer, Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Texas Health Resources. He offered the services of Presbyterian Village North in Dallas, one of the best assisted-living facilities in the state. At Presbyterian Village, both the President, Ron Bergstrom, and the lead nurse, Becky Williams, made every effort to give Aurica every comfort. When Aurica arrived, she was given a fully furnished room. And today, thanks to the love of so many, Aurica is on the way to a full recovery.

What a journey this has been. This is the story of a very special woman and the very special people who have helped with her recovery. From time to time we hear critics complain about what is wrong with America. This story shows us what is right with America. We are still a nation that is great because our people are good. And not just the ones I named. There are still others.

Like The Kula Group for donating more than \$30,000 in time and expenses; the Texas Back Institute's Physical Therapy division, which donated all of the outpatient physical therapy; Doug Hawthorne, CEO of Texas Health Resources; Jim Boswell and Leslie Baker from Presbyterian Hospital of Plano; the nursing and physical therapy staff at the Zale Lipshy Center; Linda Caram of SBC Communications; The Daniel Dawn Smalley Foundation; AmeriSuites in Plano; Father Dimitru and Gladiola Paun; and everyone else at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Parkland Hospital, and Presbyterian Village North.

Thanks for making an effort to make a difference. You have shown the nation and the world that America's generosity knows no boundaries, no barriers, no limits. We will always speak for the voiceless, stand with the helpless, and fight for the powerless.

IN HONOR OF CLIFF LEE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee, dedicated family man, community activist and Major League baseball player with the Cleveland Indians, whose grace and spirit on the ball field equals his grace and energy off the field.

Mr. Lee's deep sense of helping others is framed by sincerity and humbleness, and has not gone unnoticed by others. In honor of his exceptional service to the people of the Cleveland community, Mr. Lee has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award.

Mr. Lee continues to dedicate his personal time and talents in vital service on behalf of those families and individuals in need of assistance, with a personal focus on the children of our community. From his regular visits to the children at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House, to his dedication and focus on behalf of Cleveland's Providence House, Mr. Lee is an exceptional role model to the young and old alike, here in Cleveland and across this Nation, and his life personifies all that is good in humanity, reflecting compassion, giving and heart.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in tribute and recognition of Mr. Cliff Lee as he is honored as the recipient of Major League Baseball's 2005 John Hancock Roberto Clemente Man of the Year Award. Mr. Lee's continued concern for others and vibrant spirit of volunteerism, with a special focus on the children of our community, serves to raise their spirits above the struggle and into the light of promise, strength, hope and possibility—thereby uplifting our entire community.

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR
MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.J. Res. 61. In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day. This resolution, of which I am a cosponsor, expresses the support of this House for the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The American Gold Star Mothers are a group of mothers who have lost sons and daughters who served in the armed services. The group also assists veterans and their dependents in submitting claims to the Veterans Affairs Department.

The Gold Star Mothers are a true representation of the many levels of service and sacrifice that exists in the defense of our country. Like many members across the country, the Gold Star Mothers in my district of El Paso, Texas, remind us of the never-ending bond between families. They remind us of the sac-

rifice that families of veterans make as they endure the fears and concerns of having loved ones overseas, and the loss of loved ones who never return.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and this House to swiftly pass the resolution before us.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF JACOB LEE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Jacob R. Lee, Jr. from the Air Force.

Chief Master Sergeant Jacob R. Lee, Jr. enlisted in the Air Force in Albany, NY, coming on active duty in September of 1978. During his 27-year meteorological career, Chief Lee had 13 assignments, including four overseas.

Chief Lee worked in many different jobs in the weather career field, beginning as an observer at a six person unit. He went on to serve as the noncommissioned officer in charge of six different weather stations around the world.

His career culminated with Chief Lee's selection to the very pinnacle of the weather career field as the chief of enlisted matters at the Pentagon. As Chief, Jacob will finish his long and distinguished service to our Nation.

In recognition of his outstanding performance, Chief Lee has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal on four occasions and has been the recipient of four Air Force Commendation Medals as well.

Chief Lee is married to his wife Kathy, a math teacher, and has three children; Amanda, Benjamin and Casey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that his colleagues and his family wish Chief Lee well as he begins his retirement.

HONORING JUDGE MABEL M.
JASPER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of The Honorable Judge Mabel M. Jasper, for her exceptional accomplishments within our educational and legal system, and for serving as an inspiration and role model in Cleveland, Ohio, and far beyond.

Her unwavering integrity and strong work ethic were childhood gifts instilled by family. At age 10, Judge Jasper's family moved from Alabama to Cleveland, where she excelled academically and graduated from Glenville High School early at the age of sixteen. By age nineteen, Judge Jasper had earned a Bachelor's degree in education from Kent State University. She was hired as a substitute teacher at John Burroughs Elementary School and was soon promoted to full-time teacher. Throughout her twenty-year teaching career, Judge Jasper imbued a sense of wonder, confidence and inspiration within her young students. Ready to embark on a new journey, she enrolled in the Cleveland-Marshall College