

and facilitates the professional growth of insurance and financial services providers and promotes their public image. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to their industry and their community.

John began his career in 1963 and has been a major contributor both to his own company as well as to NAIFA. He is currently president and CEO of Financial Protection Life and Annuity Corporation. As a Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow, he serves as secretary of the NAIFA-Dallas Board of Directors, chairman of the Governmental Relations Committee, and will become President of the Association in 2010. He is a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table and has served on the boards of directors of the Dallas Association of Life Underwriters, the El Paso Association of Life Underwriters, and the El Paso General Agents and Managers Association, where he also was president.

Additionally, John has served as a member of the Richardson City Council, a founder of Richardson Sports Incorporated, and has served on various other community boards. He was the Regional Director for John B. Connally for President, Campaign Manager for Wayne Connally for Lieutenant Governor and Preston Smith for Governor. He also served as a Lay Leader for Custer Road United Methodist Church.

John and his wife, Erna, have been married for 35 years. Their family includes Kelle, Katie, Dan, Jaelyn and Brad. John is a Texas Tech graduate, where he earned a BBA in finance, played football on an athletic scholarship and was a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity.

Madam Speaker, I commend John M. Connally, Jr., for his service and commitment to the financial industry, his family and his community. He comes from a great Texas family that has contributed so much to our state and Nation, and their legacy continues in his life and in the lives of his children.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUALITY ROAD, OWNER-BREEDER EDWARD P. EVANS AND SPRING HILL FARM IN CASANOVA, VIRGINIA

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Quality Road, the winner of the Florida Derby on March 28, 2009. Breaking a track record for nine furlongs with his 1:47.72 performance and winning by 1¾ lengths, Quality Road emerged the number one seed from the Southeast Regional for the Kentucky Derby.

Quality Road was foaled on March 23, 2006 at Spring Hill Farm. The three year-old Virginia Thoroughbred colt gets his speed from his sire, Elusive Quality, who was not only a world-class miler, but also sired Smarty Jones, the 2004 Kentucky Derby winner and Raven's Pass, last year's Breeders' Cup Classic winner. His damsire, Strawberry Road, was a worldwide multiple Group I winner, and his dam's full sister, Ajina, won the 1997 Breeders' Cup Distaff and Coaching Club American Oaks.

Located in Casanova, Virginia, Spring Hill Farm is owned by Mr. Edward P. Evans and is recognized nationally and internationally for its accomplishments in Thoroughbred breeding and racing. Mr. Evans has bred leading sires and broodmares in the Thoroughbred industry for more than thirty-five years including Horse of the Year Saint Liam.

The impressive win at the Florida Derby displayed Quality Road's ability to win at the 1¼-mile distance and establishes him as a formidable contender for the Kentucky Derby.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Edward P. Evans and Spring Hill Farm on the accomplishments of an impeccably-bred horse, Quality Road. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Quality Road continued success in the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby and the first leg of the 2009 Triple Crown Series.

HONORING THE BATON ROUGE GENERAL

**HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Baton Rouge General for earning the tremendous honor—for the fifth time—as the Hospital of the Year by the Louisiana State Nurses Association.

The Baton Rouge General, established more than 100 years ago as the first hospital in the Baton Rouge area, is still committed to serving the residents of this community. This hospital boasts a legacy rich in clinical achievement, timely and responsive technological advancement, and dependable yet creative approaches to the delivery of quality care and services to those it serves.

The Baton Rouge General aids a nine-parish region as a teaching hospital for both physicians and nurses, and provides the community with an extensive range of services, including one of only two Regional Burn Centers in the state of Louisiana.

Moreover, the Baton Rouge General's Pennington Cancer Center became the first in the nation to treat patients using the ARTISTE™ the most advanced cancer-fighting technology available today. This technology allows cancer patients to remain close to home for treatment—surrounded by friends and family—and still receive the best cancer treatment available anywhere in the country.

In addition to ARTISTE™ the hospital's Pennington Cancer Center has become known for developing the most comprehensive and advanced cancer treatment program in the region, including inpatient, outpatient, surgical and medical oncology services; radiation treatment; and cancer research programs at both campuses of the Baton Rouge General. Also, through the Baton Rouge General's Womack Heart Center, the hospital provides complete cardiac care—recognized by many national organizations for the highest quality and outcomes.

Again, the Baton Rouge General's dedication to excellence was highlighted nationally in 2008 when it was named one of the nation's Top 25 Most Connected Hospitals in America by Health Imaging and IT Magazine. The hospital is in the final stages of developing a \$16

million, state-of-the-art information technology system, which has been the subject of multiple national articles.

As the Baton Rouge General forges into the new millennium, the hospital is more committed than ever to providing exceptional care from the region's best nurses, physicians and clinical professionals.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Baton Rouge General as it continues to provide needed medical services, life-saving, state-of-the-art technology and the best care to its community.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, which is marked by ceremonies this week in the United States, Israel and around the world. It is a solemn day commemorating the Hebrew anniversary of the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and each year it is an opportunity to revisit the lessons of the Holocaust and the innocent lives and vibrant communities that were destroyed by the Nazis.

Decades have passed since the Nazis and their willing counterparts committed mass genocide of European Jewry. Tragically, despite a clear historical record, Holocaust denial has become a favored platform for anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The threat grows greater as the eyewitnesses who survived the Holocaust pass on.

In a new chapter of struggle, these eyewitnesses increasingly face a different kind of daily challenge for survival. Of the approximately 100,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States, at least 25 percent live below the federal poverty level. Tragically, the current economic crisis is pushing this already vulnerable population to even further financial uncertainty. In Los Angeles, home to approximately 15,000 survivors, the Holocaust Survivor Program at Jewish Family Services has reported a sharp increase in requests for emergency financial assistance. Those who receive public benefits have already seen a cut in their Social Security payments, and are expecting additional cuts to their medical benefits, and the In-Home Supportive Services program that will go into effect this summer.

Around the country, Holocaust survivors are facing the loss of their homes of many years to foreclosure, at least in part because they have drawn on the equity in their homes to help meet daily expenses. Such displacement is distressing for any senior citizen, but the impact on survivors is often exacerbated by physical and mental health ailments from their wartime experience. It is clear that indigent survivors in Los Angeles, the United States and around the world are in dire need.

The United States and the international community have the opportunity to deliver justice and aid for these survivors at the upcoming "Holocaust Era Assets Conference," which will be hosted in June by the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague. The objective of the conference is to assess the progress made since a similar conference was convened in Washington in 1998.

Key working groups organized for the Prague Conference will focus on property restitution in countries like Poland that still have no applicable laws, looted art and Judaica, and Jewish cultural property. There will also be a special session on "Caring for Victims of Nazism and Their Legacy," which will examine the pressing humanitarian and social needs survivors face.

Those who survived the Holocaust and overcame horrific trauma to rebuild their shattered lives deserve to live their final years with dignity. We cannot talk about remembrance and restitution without addressing survivor destitution. I am hopeful that the Prague forum will answer this urgent call to action.

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS

**HON. JOE DONNELLY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my congratulations to the South Bend Washington High School Lady Panthers, 2009 State Runners-Up in the 4A girls basketball division.

During their remarkable season, the Lady Panthers won 26 games on their way to finishing second in national rankings by ESPN. In a state championship game that will be remembered as one of the best in Indiana high school basketball history, South Bend Washington lost 71-69 to Ben Davis High School of Indianapolis, the nationally top-ranked squad, on a last second shot. Through their determination, effort, and outstanding achievements, the Lady Panthers can be proud of all that they have done for girls basketball in the state of Indiana.

The South Bend Washington team consisted of 12 young ladies, including: Seniors Skylar Diggins, Alandrea Pfeifer-Nailon, Karis Phillips, Rakeesha Lane, Takoia Larry, Jasmine Watson, and Jazmine Watson; Junior Avante Newsome-Gunn; Sophomores Porscha Hill and Terran Scott; and Freshmen Brytney Bennett and Shareita Patton.

Head Coach Maurice Scott was assisted by Don Coddens. In addition to the Washington High School student body, alumni, and parents, officials such as Mayor Steve Lueke, School Superintendent James Kapsa, Washington Principal George McCullough, Jr., and Athletic Director Marilyn Coddens lent support and encouragement throughout the season.

After averaging 29 points per game, South Bend Washington senior guard Skylar Diggins was named the 2009 Gatorade and Naismith National High School Player of the Year, and was also the winner of the 2009 Indiana Miss Basketball award.

The city of South Bend and the surrounding area rallied behind the Lady Panthers. For the fourth consecutive year, thousands of fans traveled to Indianapolis, where they made the State Championship game feel like a home contest.

Again, I offer my hearty congratulations to the members of the South Bend Washington High School girls basketball team on their Semi-State title, their extraordinary effort in the State Championship game, and for all of their accomplishments this season.

HONORING DONALD NORCROSS UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE FIRST CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM CAMDEN COUNTY COLLEGE

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donald Norcross, who was the recipient of the inaugural Camden County Civic Leadership and Responsibility Award on April 2, 2009. Mr. Norcross received this award in recognition of his tireless efforts championing the causes of local laborers and their families, ensuring that the needs of local social service organizations and their clients are met, and spearheading efforts toward the renewal of the City of Camden.

While a student at Camden County College, Mr. Norcross began his career as an apprentice electrician. Today he is the president of the Southern New Jersey AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, vice president of the Southern New Jersey Building Trades Council, and assistant business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 351.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Norcross has also worked to make his community better through his civic endeavors. For more than ten years he has served as a member of the executive board of the United Way of Camden County. He founded the Home Port Alliance, a group of South Jersey veterans, activists and elected officials. This group successfully worked to bring the retired USS *New Jersey*, the most decorated battleship in United States history, to the Camden waterfront. This proud ship now serves as a monument to the brave sailors who served on her during her long and distinguished career as well as an exciting attraction that contributes to the economic development of Southern New Jersey. In light of these considerable achievements, it is fitting that Mr. Norcross was honored with the inaugural Camden County Civic Leadership and Responsibility Award. He is an excellent example for all Camden County College graduates and students. I congratulate Mr. Norcross for receiving the award and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the talented Murray State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble from Kentucky's First Congressional District. Tonight, the wind ensemble has been invited to perform at the world renowned John F. Kennedy Center. I have no doubt that these gifted students will represent western Kentucky well in our nation's Capital.

Under the direction of Mr. Dennis L. Johnson, the Murray State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble has gained a reputation for excellence both here in the United States and

abroad. This reputation has allowed them to perform in some of the most prestigious venues and events in the world. In 2000 and 2005, they were invited for special performances at Carnegie Hall. In 2001 they were the only ensemble from the United States selected to perform at the International Wind Band Conference in Manchester, England. This year they appeared in a special concert at the state Kentucky Music Educators Association Conference in Louisville. The ensemble has also been selected by competitive audition to perform at the prestigious College Band Director's National Association Conferences.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is one of the premiere performing organizations for the highly respected Murray State University Department of Music. Each year the wind ensemble presents a series of concerts featuring international performing artists-conductors and premieres compositions by composers from throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, these students and musicians have shown an unwavering commitment to both their studies and their music. Their performance this evening at the Kennedy Center is a true testament to their dedication to training and practice. The achievements of Murray State University's Wind Ensemble are noteworthy, and I ask the entire United States Congress to join me in congratulating them for receiving the great honor of being asked to perform at the Kennedy Center. I would also like to commend Murray State University as a whole for their commitment to excellence over the past 87 years. The wind ensemble is a shining example of the many incredible programs the university offers.

HONORING VINCI RICCHIUTI

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vinci Ricchiuti upon being named one of the "2009 Common Threads Honorees" by California State University, Fresno. Mrs. Ricchiuti will be honored at the 13th Annual Common Threads Luncheon to be held on Friday, April 3, 2009.

The Common Threads Award recognizes women who have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement of their communities. Vinci Ricchiuti was born and raised in Fresno, California, and spent her childhood on and around her family's farm. Her grandparents farmed tree fruit and almonds. She married Patrick Ricchiuti in 1981 and became a member of another farming family; she quickly became an ambassador for fresh fruit and nuts. Even with her role as a businesswoman and mother, she continues to make time for community involvement.

Mrs. Ricchiuti has volunteered for 10 different committees with California State University; including Foundation Board of Governors, Budget Committee Chair, Ambassador for Higher Education Committee, Comprehensive Campaign Leadership Committee and Alumni Board Past Director. She is also a Foundation board member for Community Regional Medical Center, an advisory board member for the Nazareth House and a past president for Fort Washington Elementary School. Between Mrs.