

HONORING BOY SCOUT TROOP 457
OF MIAMI, FL

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and commend Troop 457 of Boy Scouts of America in my district of South Florida. On Saturday, April 25, 2009, the troop will conduct their Court of Honor, honoring 13 of their own with the most prestigious rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts of America is a tremendous organization that my husband, Dexter, and I have continuously supported. With Dexter being a Eagle Scout, and me previously serving as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, we fully understand and appreciate all of the hard work and dedication invested into achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

These 13 young men have distinguished themselves in the South Florida community as leaders of tomorrow through their countless hours of service toward improving South Florida. It is with great honor that I ask that the names of these 13 individuals be submitted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

William David Cochran, Kenneth Lewis Baer, James Phillip Baer, Joshua Rothenberg, Michael Thomas Dannelly, Leo Benjamin Kaplowitz, Wade Morgan Judy, Timothy Young Hunter, David Benjamin Shapiro, Alexander Pergakis, Jonathan A. Muench, Jonathan O. Lopez, Gabriel Cespedes.

OBSERVANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise in sorrow and in solidarity with Armenians, with our fellow citizens of Armenian descent, and with all men and women of good will to recall the atrocities Armenians suffered in the early years of the last century. Contemporary accounts leave no doubt that indiscriminate massacres took place.

I understand that this topic evokes painful memories and raises difficult issues of national identity for persons of both Armenian and Turkish ancestry. Nonetheless, I believe that we must call genocide by its proper name and acknowledge it when it has occurred so that we may better learn to recognize and resist its horrors in the future. That includes recognizing the policies of the Ottoman Empire during World War I and its aftermath as genocidal.

International response to genocide has historically been inadequate at best, and we must do all we can to strengthen our resolve to prevent and punish such atrocities. Moreover, I believe that nations can move forward in fellowship when the past is confronted with honesty and courage. I hope to see the republics of Armenia and Turkey cooperate and jointly contribute to the stability of their troubled region.

IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY
MUSEUM OF ART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Museum of Art for their fifty years of service dedicated to the stewardship and celebration of the artistic legacy of the Monterey Peninsula. On behalf of the whole House, I am honored to extend to the Monterey Museum of Art the gratitude of the Congress and the American people for their past and future service.

Monterey County, in Central California, is a region that has inspired artists since the late 1800s. Artists flocked to the area, which was then and still is a region of pristine beauty. They brought with them the tradition of plein air painting, still in evidence today with artists painting the land and seascapes of "the greatest meeting of land and sea."

The Monterey Museum of Art was founded in 1959 in Carmel as a Chapter of the American Federation of the Arts by a group of civic minded individuals who sought to create an arts space for that seminal arts colony. In addition to celebrating pioneers of early California art such as Armin Hansen, the museum collects and exhibits contemporary photography by such renowned artists as Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and Imogen Cunningham, contemporary artists working locally, in California and nationally.

Now comprising two locations, after the bequest of an historic adobe in the early 1980's by Frank Work, the museum serves nearly 40,000 visitors annually from around the world, including thousands of local schoolchildren. The museum is reaching out to families and children with new activities and programs geared to inspire a passion for the visual arts in accordance with their mission.

The mission of the Monterey Museum of Art is to collect, preserve, and interpret the art of California from the nineteenth century to the present day, within a national and international context. In this way, they expand the appreciation of their evolving artistic legacy and inspire a passion for the visual arts. We look forward to the next fifty years of their endeavors in this area.

Madam Speaker, I want to hold up the Monterey Museum of Art as a model museum and cultural institution, an expression of what makes our nation a worldwide leader in arts unique to our land. May their continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our nation's artistic heritage and participate in its future.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES EARNS TWO PULITZER PRIZES FOR JOURNALISM

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times earned a rare honor Monday by collecting multiple Pulitzer Prizes for journalism excellence.

Washington Bureau Chief Bill Adair and his team won the only Pulitzer Prize awarded this year by Columbia University for content created for the web. They earned the honor in the National Reporting category for PolitiFact, a website at www.politifact.com conceived by Bill Adair to test the validity of political statements.

Times Staff Writer Lane DeGregory won the second Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for her story "The Girl in the Window", which is about a Plant City child who was locked in her room by her adoptive parents.

This is a great honor for Paul Tash, the Editor, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of The St. Petersburg Times and his team of writers, editors, and support staff in this the newspaper's 125th year.

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues a story from the Times by Stephen Nohlgren with more background on these awards and the six Pulitzer Prizes earned previously by St. Petersburg Times reporters and editors.

The creation of PolitiFact will be of special interest to our colleagues in the House. The PolitiFact team, led by Bill Adair, included editors Scott Montgomery and Amy Hollyfield, reporter and researcher Angie Drobnic Holan, reporters Robert Farley and Alexander Lane, news technologist Matthew Waite and designer Martin Frobisher.

Together they searched through political ads, speeches and debates and determined the accuracy of political statements by presidential candidates and candidates for other offices. The information is accessible and searchable on the internet and is also published in the Times. PolitiFact became such a valuable source of information during last fall's campaign season that it was quoted regularly by national news organizations.

Madam Speaker, Please join me in congratulating Lane DeGregory, Bill Adair, and his team for a job well done in earning journalism's highest honor this week. They have set the standard for human interest and political reporting as judged by the peers in their field of work.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Apr. 21, 2009]

TIMES WINS 2 PULITZERS

(By Stephen Nohlgren), The St. Petersburg Times, April 21, 2009

For the first time in its 125-year history, the St. Petersburg Times has won two Pulitzer Prizes in a single year.

Staff writer Lane DeGregory, 42, captured the feature writing category for "The Girl in the Window," a moving account of a Plant City child whose mother kept her locked in a filthy room, and the adoptive family who worked to overcome her feral beginnings.

The Times staff won the national reporting prize for PolitiFact, a Web site, database and "Truth-O-Meter" that tests the validity of political statements.

That award reflected the growing influence of online media in public affairs. PolitiFact was designed for the Web at politifact.com, though its content also appears regularly in the Times' print edition.

The two awards are "so representative of our organization as a team, of the skill we bring to work every day," Executive Editor Neil Brown told the newsroom staff Monday amid cheers and popping champagne corks.

Like newspapers all over the country, the Times is navigating tough economic times, Brown said, but "this is old-fashioned journalism, great reporting and great writing."

Nothing has changed about that. This is what we do."

The Pulitzerz, awarded by Columbia University, are widely regarded as journalism's highest accolade. The only other newspaper to win more than one prize in this year's 14 categories was the New York Times, with five.

The St. Petersburg Times previously had won six Pulitzerz, its most recent coming in 1998.

Though Columbia tries to keep results under wraps until one nationwide announcement, reporters and secrets don't mix well.

By lunchtime Monday, grins, hugs and excited whispers spread through the newsroom. A few minutes before the 3 p.m. announcement, staffers congregated around one computer to await the Associated Press bulletin together.

After congratulations died down, DeGregory told her colleagues she was working at the Virginian-Pilot 10 years ago, when she read "Angels & Demons," a Pulitzer-winning series by then-Times reporter Thomas French about the murders of an Ohio woman and her two daughters in Florida.

"I thought, 'Oh my God, there's a newspaper that publishes real stories like that?'"

When she was hired at the Times in 2000, DeGregory said, "I thought it couldn't get any better than working at this place and working with these people. But today it got a little better."

"The Girl in the Window" was published last August, with photos by Melissa Lyttle.

Danielle was 7 when neighbors spotted her face through a broken window of her home. Detectives found her in diapers, her skeletal body raw from bug bites.

She couldn't speak.

A Fort Myers family adopted her, and DeGregory chronicled their efforts to draw her from her silent shell.

Within a month of publication, more than 1 million people read the story online. Calls to authorities from Tampa Bay residents wanting to adopt foster children jumped 33 percent.

Times staff writer John Barry was a Pulitzer finalist in the feature category for "Winter's Tale," an account of a dolphin with a prosthetic tail and a disabled girl who befriended it.

PolitiFact was conceived by Washington bureau chief Bill Adair during the runup to the 2008 presidential election.

Adair, 47, felt frustrated in earlier campaigns by a lack of time and resources to fact-check political rhetoric.

"We had neglected this aspect of reporting too long," said Adair, a 20-year Times veteran. "With the Web, we had the tools to do reporting better and the tools to be able to publish in new ways."

With the green light from Times' brass, Adair skipped traditional campaign coverage and worked full time on PolitiFact.

The PolitiFact team included editors Scott Montgomery and Amy Hollyfield, reporter and researcher Angie Drobnic Holan, reporters Robert Farley and Alexander Lane, news technologist Matthew Waite and designer Martin Frobisher.

The team combed through political ads, speeches and debates, and summarized the findings on a "Truth-O-Meter," which labeled statements as True, Mostly True, Half True, Barely True, False or Pants on Fire.

A searchable database kept the rulings accessible.

Soon other media outlets were quoting PolitiFact as an authority on public discourse, and Adair was appearing on CNN and National Public Radio.

About 95 percent of the Web site's hits come from outside the Tampa Bay area and 10 percent from outside the United States.

"This is such a terrible time for newspapers, and I think our winning today is a sign that the Web is not a death sentence for newspapers," Adair said. "We need to look at it as an opportunity."

For the first time this year, the Pulitzer board invited entries in all categories from Web-only news operations. The Times won the only prize for content created for the Web.

Editor, chairman and CEO Paul Tash capped off Monday's newsroom toasts by recalling longtime owner Nelson Poynter, who willed the Times to a not-for-profit journalism institute so that public service, not profits, would drive the newspaper's corporate culture.

"Here's to a little guy, in a bow tie, who came from Indiana," Tash said. "He gave us the chance, and today our colleagues have vindicated his confidence."

Pulitzer Prizes at the St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent

1998: Thomas French, feature writing, for "Angels & Demons," his narrative portrait of an Ohio mother and two daughters slain on a Florida vacation, and the three-year inquiry into their murders.

1995: Jeffrey Good, editorial writing, for "Final Indignities," his editorial campaign urging reform of Florida's probate system for settling estates.

1991: Sheryl James, feature writing, for "A Gift Abandoned," a series about a mother who abandoned her newborn child and how it affected her life and the lives of others.

1985: Lucy Morgan and Jack Reed, investigative reporting, for their reporting on Pasco County Sheriff John Short, which revealed his department's troubles and led to his removal from office by voters.

1980: Bette Swenson Orsini and Charles Stafford, national reporting, for their investigation of the Church of Scientology.

1964: Times staff, public service, for the investigation of the Florida Turnpike Authority, which disclosed widespread illegal acts and resulted in a major reorganization of the state's road construction program.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I believe it is important that we all remember the past, whether it relates to people's positive actions or their negative. The saying that those who do not know their past are doomed to repeat it holds much truth. For that reason, today I rise to recognize a tragic event in human history that resulted in the loss of the lives of nearly 1.5 million Armenians during World War I.

On April 24, 1915, the then-Ottoman Empire began the systematic execution of Armenians, an event now known as the Armenian Genocide. While a large number of Armenians were killed outright, many others suffered and died of starvation and diseases which spread through their concentration camps. By 1923, the entire Armenian population previously inhabiting the landmass of Asia Minor and West Armenia had been eliminated.

As a Member of Congress, I have joined with nearly one hundred of my colleagues in support of legislation affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide and

urging the President to ensure U.S. foreign policy reflects an understanding of the human suffering relating to this genocide. I appreciate the efforts of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, which recently appealed to President Barack Obama requesting that he remain true to his previous statements and, as President, recognize the Armenian Genocide as, "a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence."

Madam Speaker, the United States serves as an example to the world of what can be achieved when basic human rights are protected and nurtured. It is in this role that we must recognize this methodic extermination of over one million Armenians during World War I. Moreover, I believe that through appropriate recognition, we can work to ensure that atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide are remembered, and not relived.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY VOLUNTEER BOB WILLIAMS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today, during National Volunteer Week, to recognize Bob Williams, a man who has gone above and beyond in the call to serve his community and fellow American.

I first met Bob and learned of his story when he visited my office in his role as the American Cancer Society's Ambassador for New York's 27th Congressional District.

Bob, a cancer survivor himself, does not simply advocate on the fight against cancer, he lives it.

Bob is a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's "Road to Recovery" program which links patients in need of transportation to cancer treatments with volunteers willing to donate their time and the use of their car to provide free transportation.

With remarkable devotion and an overflowing heart Bob has made trip after trip—well over 500 in total—providing patients with comfort and companionship as they drive the over 120 mile round trip route between Chautauqua County and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Quickly the miles added up and with more than 100,000 miles under his belt Bob recently rightfully earned the title American Cancer Society Western New York Volunteer of the year.

Through the "Road to Recovery" program Bob has provided transportation to over 1,600 people, relieving patients of the fight to find a ride to treatment and allowing them to focus on the fight against the disease.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor Bob Williams, a man who with humility and compassion has set an example for us all on the enormous difference one person can make. Bob's volunteerism is admirable and inspiring and I am pleased to acknowledge his many contributions this Volunteer Week.