

TRIBUTE TO MAE LILLIAN  
MITCHELL

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mae Lillian Mitchell of Boone, Iowa, on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on August 26, 2010.

Mae was born on August 26, 1910 in Keystone, Iowa. In 1944, she married Raymond B. Mitchell and they were together until his death, when he was ninety-one years old. They have two children, Lois and David; and have two grandchildren, Melissa and Andy. Mae is currently residing at the Evangelical Free Church Home in Boone, Iowa. She maintains an extensive collection of poetry and a collection of antique porcelain dolls.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Mae's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Mae has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in sending warm wishes to Mae on the milestone of her 100th birthday. I am extremely honored to represent her in Congress, and I wish her happiness and health for many more years to come.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLES RUSSELL FOR HIS BRAVERY AND SERVICE IN IRAQ

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Russell for his inspiring work to help rebuild the Iraqi agricultural sector. As a civilian volunteer, Mr. Russell not only helped those directly affected by his service, but also contributed to the overall rebuilding of the Iraqi community.

Along with our men and women in uniform, volunteers such as Charles Russell are an integral part of our mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Russell grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and became an agricultural statistician and expert in the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Selflessly leaving his family and home, Mr. Russell volunteered to serve 16 months helping people he had never met. Mr. Russell served as a USDA Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) agricultural expert on both the embedded PRT-Baghdad 4 and the embedded PRT-Baghdad South in Baghdad Province. He was one of the only civilians in these groups.

Mr. Russell tirelessly worked to create the Mahmudiyah Higher Agricultural Association

(MHA), a non-governmental organization dedicated to helping Iraqi farmers get access to new technologies, equipment, and low-cost credit. Additionally, Mr. Russell helped the Iraqi people strengthen their communities, improve management of natural resources, and rebuild agricultural markets. For his work he received the U.S. Department of State's meritorious honor award for his sustained, dedicated, and successful efforts. As John D. Brewer, the Foreign Agricultural Service administrator, said, "the efforts of people like Charles are crucial for helping to create stable, democratic, and economically viable societies in countries like Iraq."

I commend Mr. Russell for his undeniable dedication, outstanding personal character, and unwavering commitment to those less fortunate than himself. On September 8, 2010, the United States Department of Agriculture honored Mr. Russell at its Service Recognition Ceremony for USDA employees that have completed deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am proud to recognize and honor Charles Russell for his efforts and patriotism.

CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL TAOIST TAI CHI SOCIETY ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the International Taoist Tai Chi Society on their organization's 40th anniversary.

Predominantly managed by volunteers, the Taoist Tai Chi Society instructs members in internal arts and methods which focus on recovering, improving, and maintaining health and wellness. In following the aims and objectives of its founder, Master Moy Lin-shin, the society also promotes preserving the "essence of tradition in the modern world" and the "dual cultivation of mind and body."

With locations in more than 25 countries around the world, the International Taoist Tai Chi Society unites individuals of different cultures and dialects, creating an international community. I am pleased to note that, in my own 5th Congressional District, the society opened a non-profit, Arizona Chapter in 2008. This chapter has both helped to improve the health of members in my district and facilitate their connection with others throughout the world interested in similar practices.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Arizona Chapter of the International Taoist Tai Chi Society and the entire organization on its 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in con-

gratulating the Michigan Economic Developers Association as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. The year-long celebration will culminate during their annual meeting this week in Traverse City Michigan.

The Michigan Economic Developers Association was formed in 1960 to assist local economic development organizations. Over the years they have provided education, information and training to local economic development leaders. Currently 470 members representing all parts of Michigan form the leadership team committed to training economic development practitioners and advancing the economic climate of the State.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be able to congratulate the members of the Michigan Economic Development Association as they celebrate 50 years of leadership in the economic development arena. The men and women of the Association have volunteered their time, energy, resources and insight to improve the economic climate of the State of Michigan and I wish them the best as they develop new, innovative ideas for our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the creation of real estate investment trusts and congratulate the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts on 50 years of service to their membership.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) opened the door for all investors to participate in large-scale commercial real estate investments. Prior to the passage of tax law in 1960 that provided for the establishment of REITs, this opportunity was generally available only to large financial institutions and wealthy individuals through direct investment in the real estate.

Today, REITs own approximately \$500 billion of commercial real estate assets and 132 REITs are traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Last year, REITs paid out approximately \$13.5 billion in dividends. This access to publically traded and regulated securities has expanded investment and diversification opportunities for millions of Americans and provided more options as they plan and invest for their retirement security.

REITs have become an important piece of the U.S. economy and investment markets, and I congratulate the industry on their 50th anniversary.

HONORING LOU SANDERS

**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Lou Sanders for an

outstanding career in journalism and long-standing dedication to serving the people of Long Island, New York. As the owner of the Mineola America for 40 years and as the writer of the Mineola America column *Around the Town with Lou*, Mr. Sanders serves as a staple to the residents of Mineola. For these reasons and many others, I believe he is worthy of recognition.

Mr. Sanders earned his degree in journalism at New York University and has been an irreplaceable asset to his community in many capacities. Lou has been elected the position of President of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce five times and has been elected twice for the position of President of the Nassau County Press Association. Lou and his wife Grace started the Mineola America in 1952 and, after 40 years, sold the paper to Anton Community Newspapers. As the current writer of the Mineola America column *Around the Two with Lou*, Mr. Sanders consistently offers the community encouraging words about the issues affecting Long Islanders' day-to-day life.

Lou is a part of what makes Mineola, New York a wonderful place to live, and I am grateful to him for all that he has provided to the community. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for his contributions to society.

HONORING CHILDREN'S  
FAIRYLAND 60TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th Anniversary of children's Fairyland, the quintessential storybook park on the shores of Oakland's Lake Merritt. Since its debut in 1950, Fairyland has been an affordable and charming haven for children to play, dream and explore the reaches of their imaginations.

It was the vision of local businessman Arthur Navlet in 1948 that led to the civic-minded Lake Merritt Breakfast Club's endorsement of an innovative children's park consisting of fairytale and storybook sets, farm animals and live entertainment for families. With the support of Oakland's Parks Superintendent William Penn Mott, Jr., the Breakfast Club's record-breaking fundraising efforts, and the creative design of architect William Russell Everitt, Fairyland opened its gates on September 2, 1950.

Word of the whimsical attraction soon spread, due in large part to the efforts of City of Oakland Parks and Recreation information representative Burton Weber, who helped to create publicity through the famed "Fairyland Personalities" program for eight- to 10-year-old community representatives. Since then, Fairyland has enchanted countless children and families throughout the nation, and its success has relied on the commitment and ingenuity of generations of volunteers, community leaders, patrons and staff.

One of Children's Fairyland's famed visitors was the then unknown, Walt Disney. In fact, it is believed that the park inspired some of the ideas for his world-famous Disneyland Magic Kingdom, which opened in southern California in 1955.

In the early 1990s, after falling into some disrepair, Fairyland enjoyed a renaissance when its long-time patrons and supporters in the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club proposed that it become a nonprofit organization. Now, as a 501(c)(3) organization, Children's Fairyland can apply for grant funding to support its upkeep and growth. Part of Fairyland's universal appeal is its simple ability to entertain all types of families, especially the underserved. Through a grant from Alameda County's Every Child Counts, Fairyland currently waives the cost of admission for approximately 4,000 low-income children each year.

In a rapidly changing 21st century, Fairyland is a local treasure—a place where both children and adults can find the time and space to enjoy the simple pleasures of childhood. While it hearkens back to times of pastoral bliss and fanciful characters, it also provides a sense of timelessness and calm in the midst of an urban city. Fairyland's long list of accolades includes being named "Best of the Bay" from the San Francisco Chronicle, "Best Amusement Park" and "Best Children's Theater" from Bay Area Parent, and "Best Birthday Party" from Diablo Magazine.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. I want to thank all of the many people who have contributed to the continued success of Children's Fairyland. I wish you the very best.

HONORING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE TOWN OF TRYON,  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the town of Tryon in western North Carolina. Tryon, a town of 1,760 residents, has a very rich and important history and culture.

In 1767, William Tryon, Royal Colonial Governor of North Carolina, negotiated a demarcation line to separate territory claimed by settlers from Cherokee hunting grounds to the west. In 1877, the Asheville-Spartanburg Railroad created a line to connect the markets and ports of the South Carolina Lowcountry to the people and resources of western North Carolina, Tennessee, and the Ohio River valley, which had a significant impact on the direction of the region's economic and social development.

One of Tryon's most famous early residents, William Gillette, was a noted actor who, in collaboration with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, created the stage version of Sherlock Holmes in 1889. In 1915, Eleanor Vance and Charlotte Yale moves to Tryon and founded Tryon Toy-makers and Wood Carvers, which trained local craftsmen for the creation of artisan furniture and toys that were sold worldwide. In 1928, Seth Vining launched the world's smallest daily newspaper, the Tryon Daily Bulletin. In that same year, two Tryon physicians, Dr. Allen J. Jerve and Dr. Marion C. Palmer, founded the 25-bed St. Luke's hospital with funds from an initial bequest by Miss Lucy Embury, a grant from Duke Foundation, and \$57,000 contributed by local citizens.

The town has also contributed to the leadership and historic preservation of North Carolina, sending Carroll P. Rogers to serve as State Representative in 1929, 1939, and 1941. Rogers cosponsored a bill enabling the state to purchase the site of Tryon Palace in New Bern. In 1933, internationally renowned singer and human rights activist Nina Simone (nee Eunice Waymon) was born in Tryon. Lastly, in 1985, Foothills Equestrian Nature Center (F.E.N.C.E) came into being as a nonprofit nature education and outdoor recreation center, built around an original contribution of 112 acres from the Mahler family, which emigrated to Tryon in the 1920s.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to rise with me in recognizing the amazing contributions of the town of Tryon on its 125th anniversary. The purpose of this commendation is to increase public awareness of the considerable natural assets and cultural heritage Tryon offers to its citizens and visitors and to encourage their active participation in the yearlong celebration of the town and its history.

THOMAS BURKE RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 14, 2010*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you to honor Mr. Thomas A. Burke on his retirement from his position as Business Representative for the Chicago Pipe Fitters. Tom, a member of Pipe Fitters Local #597 for many years, has made the interests of his fellow tradesmen his top priority. For his devotion and lifetime of service to the Pipe Fitters, Tom was honored at a retirement dinner that took place Saturday, August 21, 2010.

Tom Burke has been a proud member of Local #597 since he began his apprenticeship 44 years ago. From the moment Tom began his apprenticeship, he received the unmarked title of second generation pipe fitter, following his father along with his brother, Dennis. Since his apprenticeship, Tom has held many positions, including journeyman, foreman, and superintendent. While working as a skilled and dedicated pipe fitter, Tom assumed numerous roles of leadership. He served for one term as a member of the Federation of Labor Board, joining an honorable group that stands up for working men and women, and giving his time to an organization that creates a united voice for Chicago's labor movement. He went on from there to serve one term on the Examining Board, dedicating his time and expertise in assisting with apprentice entrance examinations. His leadership roles continued as Tom served two plus terms on the Executive Board that made important decisions on various union matters. In such a prestigious position, Tom was able to display his well developed leadership skills. All of this past experience culminated in Tom's election to the office of Business Representative in 1998. He held this honorable office until his retirement in 2010.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty from its tradesmen. From one leadership position to the next, Tom has continued that history as he displayed his unwavering dedication to the