

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR AS OFFERED BY LINDA DICKENS OF GRAND BAY, AL

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, last week one of my constituents, Linda Dickens, submitted a letter to Mobile's Press-Register offering a heartfelt tribute to her father, P.H. Murray.

As we pause this week to salute the men and women who have served in America's Armed Forces and honor the courage and sacrifice of those who continue to serve today, I found her letter especially poignant.

Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to ask that this op-ed piece be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in its entirety, for I found Ms. Dickens' letter an appropriate way to say thank you to the men and women who have done so much to protect this nation:

SALUTE TO A SPECIAL VETERAN

Veterans Day will not be the same this year because my special World War II veteran will not be here with me to celebrate. He was my father, P.H. Murray, who passed away Sept. 30, one day after his 84th birthday.

He was a great American hero to our family. His American flag is still flying outside his home, as it did every day he lived. He went off to war as a boy at the age of 18 and came back a man. He brought back memories, good and bad, that would last a lifetime.

He was proud to have served under Gen. George Patton in the Battle of the Bulge.

He was quite a joker when he was young, and when he was awakened in the middle of the night to see his commanding officer, the first time he thought, "What have I done?" It was a good thing, because the officer had learned Daddy had been a burner at the shipyard before the war, and they needed men to help burn plows to put on the front of the tanks so they could go over the hedge rows, which made the tanks turn over and easy targets for Germans to shoot. This made him very proud that he had done something special for his country.

For years as a child I never understood how Daddy could squat on the floor for hours at a time without moving. It was because for 19 months he didn't see a chair or a bed.

He never talked to us much when we were little. If only I had known the nightmares my mom hid from us that he was having about the war. He had so many memories bottled up in him.

He was a great father and provider and was always there for us five kids. He taught us to work hard, prepare for the future and always value what the men of WWII had done for our great country. He was proud that he had helped with our freedom and that we were all able to go to college.

He was a very smart man, even though he didn't go to college because of his children. He was a quiet man until the last few years, when he opened up about the war. He began to tell us stories about the war.

Some were funny, and others you could tell took a toll on his heart. This is when I really came to realize what the war had done for us.

I had taken history courses about the war, but they were nothing like the personal stories Daddy told. He said we never learned the real history of the war in a history book. Many young people don't realize what veterans did to keep our country free.

Daddy lost his two childhood friends in the war. One was killed and the other so shell-shocked that he could never come home to live. I remember the trips to see "Mr. Jim" at the Veterans Home in Biloxi. Daddy never forgot about him, even though he felt sad that he was not able to come home to his family.

Daddy taught us love, how important family is and that it doesn't matter what you have, it is what you do with it. Never forget we are free, and never forget the men who fought and the ones who gave their lives so we could be free.

He was proud of his WWII hat, which he wore proudly each day. He was buried with it. It made him feel proud and honored when someone asked him where he served.

I give all the veterans of this great country a "five-star salute," as my father would say when you did something good. Daddy, I give you a "five-star salute" for all you did for me and our country. I will miss you this Veterans Day and all the other days of my life. Thanks for a job well done.

Linda Dickens, Grand Bay.

HONORING DR. J. EUGENE GRIGSBY

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. J. Eugene Grigsby, a talented and multi-faceted artist who has been instrumental in highlighting the importance of combining art with culture and history as a means of expression. As such, he is considered by many as "one of America's leading artistic minds and recognized internationally as an artistic voice for the African American community." It was in keeping with this distinction that he was recently honored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at its Celebration of Leadership for the Visual and Performing Arts.

From his early days as a young art teacher in 1946 at Phoenix's segregated Carver High School, Dr. Grigsby has concentrated on conveying to his students the importance of incorporating their personal being and heritage in their works—a message he continued to demonstrate as he rose to become Professor Emeritus of Art at Arizona State University. As an internationally respected artist himself, who has mastered a number of mediums including oils, acrylics and lithographs, his works are noted for their ability to capture the spirit and dignity of his African and African-American subjects in scenes depicting their daily life.

A pioneer in today's promotion of multi-cultural art, Dr. Grigsby led the way to contemporary art instruction that goes beyond work in the studio by including the study of history and how man has chosen to express himself in differing environments. It is within this context that his celebrated book, *Art and Ethnics: Background for Teaching Youth in a Pluralistic Society*, has provided educators with valuable insights into art education and will continue to impact the study of art well into the future.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend, honor and thank Dr. Grigsby, one of the great

American artists, for his continued service and contributions to the world of art and academic communities.

SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for the Second Chance Act of 2007, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of ex-offenders into the community.

With the dramatic increase in criminal convictions involving illegal drugs since the 1980's, the Nation's prisons have become severely overcrowded. As a result, every day hundreds of men and women are released from prison into their communities for the difficult task of restarting their lives.

It is even more difficult for those who have been incarcerated for a lengthy amount of time, those with limited education, and those who lack basic job skills. These men and women need assistance transitioning back into the community. Some assistance is needed with locating housing, finding employment, getting drug treatment, and mentoring.

This bill would provide that assistance. It is crucial to provide that assistance because it will reduce recidivism, improve lives, and improve communities. At a time when communities all across our great country have been torn apart by crime and drugs, we need to do all we can to help Americans who need a second chance at life. Let's send a message to America that we care about those who need help getting on their feet.

I thank my colleague DANNY DAVIS for introducing this important bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN EDWARD GRENIER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. John Edward Grenier was a devoted family man and one of the most respected political strategists in modern Alabama politics.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1930, John Grenier attended Jesuit High School and lettered in track, baseball, and football. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Tulane University. He entered the United States Marine Corps and rose to the rank of captain. He served with distinction in Korea as a pilot, flying over 100 patrols in squadron VMF 312, known as the Checkerboard Squadron.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, John Grenier attended New York University and received an LLM degree in taxation. He worked on Wall Street for a brief time before moving to Birmingham, Alabama, to work with Southern Natural Gas

Company. He later joined the law firm of Bradley Arant Rose & White, where he became a partner. He then joined the firm formerly known as Lange, Simpson, Robinson & Somerville and was a partner for over 35 years before retiring in 2004.

John Grenier's true passion was politics, a passion that changed the course of Alabama politics. He began his political career as chairman of the Jefferson County Young Republicans. In this capacity, he organized a political rally in Birmingham in 1960 for Richard Nixon.

John Grenier organized the modern day Alabama Republican Party and served as the state chairman in 1962. He joined the Goldwater for President Campaign and organized the delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Francisco. John Grenier was the Southern Regional Director for the campaign when Senator Goldwater swept many of the southern states, including Alabama, in his bid for President.

In 1966, Mr. Grenier was the Republican nominee against Democratic U.S. Senator John Sparkman. Even though he lost that race, John fared better than most previous Republicans in what was then a heavily Democratic state.

In 1986, John served as the campaign manager for Guy Hunt's successful bid to become the first Republican governor of Alabama since Reconstruction. He served as Governor Hunt's chief of staff and later managed Governor Hunt's successful bid for reelection.

Madam Speaker, John Grenier was a political leader, strategist and visionary. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Stella Kontos Grenier; his son, John Beaulieu Grenier; his daughter-in-law, Joy Grenier; his sister, Rosemary Grenier Rivet; his four grandchildren, John Beaulieu Grenier, Jr., Dorothy Monnish Grenier, Evans Barlow Grenier, and Carolyn Youmans Grenier; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

#### HONORING LINK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Link Elementary School of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, for being named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School for the 2006–2007 school year. Principal Barbara Schremser, Link faculty, students and parents—you should be very proud of this remarkable accomplishment.

At a time in our Nation's history when the efficacy of our education system is often questioned, it is a great comfort to see a school that truly commits itself to finding ways to teach our children and provide hope for our Nation's future.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award is a distinction given to the public schools throughout the country whose students score within the top 10 percent on state assessments. This year, of the more

than 97,000 public schools in the United States, just 287 schools were recognized with this distinct honor.

In the State of Illinois, 19 schools were members of this elite group. The Blue Ribbon School Award recognizes what we all know: the Link faculty and staff are some of the best and brightest in the Nation.

With the motto "to think, to learn, to achieve and to care," Link has shown steady academic progress and achieved exceptionally high test scores. In awarding the 2006–2007 Blue Ribbon School Award, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Link's success in helping students consistently achieve at very high levels, as well as its continued commitment to narrowing the achievement gap.

As we strive to educate our current generation of children and prepare our nation's future leaders, Link Elementary School stands out as a shining example of scholastic and institutional excellence.

I am proud to represent Link Elementary School in the United States Congress and I look forward to their continued achievements.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues please join me in congratulating the talented students and dedicated faculty and staff of Link Elementary School for receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, on November 7, 2007, I missed four votes. Had I been present that evening, I would have voted as follows:

"No" on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)—vote No. 1056.

"Yea" on final passage of H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)—vote No. 1057.

"Yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 236, Recognizing the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of San Marino—vote No. 1058

"Yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 801: Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement—vote No. 1059.

#### RECOGNIZES THE GERMAN AMERICAN CLUB OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Ms. GINNEY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Fifth District of Florida that I represent is made up of people from around the United States and the world. With perfect weather, low taxes and friendly residents, it is one of the fastest growing areas of the country. As you might expect, one of the

cultural groups that have flocked to Florida for the last several generations are German Americans, many from my former State of New York. On Sunday, November 18, 2007, the German American Club of Spring Hill, Florida will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a dinner and dance extravaganza.

The club, founded in 1982, was organized by Friedel Rohn, along with Christa and Fritz Neumann. The first social meeting was held at the home of Friedel Rohn in January 1982 with 10 people present. The first "official" meeting was held in June 1982 with 22 members present. Today there are nearly 300 members and the club is still growing strong.

The first officers installed were Friedel Rohn as president, Margarethe Grabert as vice-president, Norman Armonat as treasurer and Ruth Hughes as secretary. By March of 1983, the membership had increased to 60 members. The club began hosting many functions and socials throughout the year, including its own Oktoberfest. As the years passed, more dances and social events were added to the calendar and the membership continued to increase.

In 1992, when the club celebrated its 10th anniversary, the club had grown to over 170 members. In 2002, the club's 20th anniversary was celebrated with a membership that had increased to over 235. Today the 25th anniversary will feature 285 members, with room to grow for the future. Having attended several of their club functions, I can tell you that German American Club members stayed true to their roots and know how to cook a delicious schnitzel and dance to a great polka tune.

Madam Speaker, over the past 25 years the German American Club of Spring Hill has worked to uphold the German culture, spirit, tradition and heritage. The club's members and officers have made Spring Hill and Hernando County a true home to German Americans from around the world, and are to be commended for their commitment and dedication. With the continued support of their membership and officers, I look forward to help the club celebrate their next 25 years.

#### INTRODUCING THE AIRPORT SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, last week, we learned that more than 30 illegal aliens gained access to the most sensitive areas at O'Hare Airport.

Without valid Social Security numbers, illegal aliens were given official badges to access the tarmac and the airplanes.

This is not the first time. It's happened before at airports around the country.

The Congress must set Federal standards for those who seek access to an airport's most sensitive areas.

You should be a U.S. national or legal permanent resident.

You should possess a valid Social Security number that actually belongs to you.

You should have that Social Security number verified through the E-Verify employer verification system.