

his annual winterquarters rehearsals to Sarasota in 1927, Ringling Bros. remains in many ways synonymous with our area. John and Charles Ringling—two of the five original Ringling brothers who turned a small traveling circus into an international entertainment empire—wielded incredible influence on the economy, development, culture, and character of this same quaint village on beautiful Sarasota Bay.

Now in its 142nd year, and under the stewardship of the Feld family, the Greatest Show on Earth continues to call the Sarasota area home.

Almost everywhere you look in Sarasota, our circus heritage is evident. The ever popular Circus Ring of Fame, established in 1988 at St. Armand's circle, pays tribute to the greats of the circus world, including such Sarasota notables as famed animal trainer, Gunter Gebel-Williams, clowns Lou Jacobs and Emmett Kelley and great artists such as the Flying Wallendas and the Zacchinas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the generations of circus artists, producers, and animal trainers that call the 13th District of Florida home, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy World Circus Day!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Ohio Chapter.

CAIR is a nationwide, nonprofit organization whose mission is to "enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding." For the past ten years, CAIR Ohio has played an instrumental role in helping to bridge the divides between Greater Cleveland's diverse communities.

CAIR Ohio's Tenth Annual Banquet will provide a platform for vibrant discourse led by this year's distinguished speakers: Mr. Faisal Kutty, of Valparaiso University School of Law, Osgoode Hall Law School of York University and KSM Law and Imam Abu Farah of the American Muslim Youth Leadership Council and CAIR-Tampa. I commend these speakers for their efforts to promote civil liberties and social justice.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Council on American-Islamic Relations Ohio Chapter for their tenth years of outstanding achievement. May their efforts to promote dialogue and create a more inclusive world continue to endure.

HONORING THE CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, as a Cheshire resident, I rise today to com-

memorate the 100th anniversary of the Cheshire Fire Department.

Following a devastating fire at the old Waverly Inn the citizens of Cheshire came together on the 13th of February, 1912 to discuss how to protect their community from the threat of fires. This first community meeting would lead to the organization of the Cheshire Fire Department on February 27th of that year and the chartering of its first twenty-seven members a month later. The Department's first call would come that April to respond to a chimney fire at the home of one of the Department's trustees, Mr. A.S. Bennett.

Over the past century the Cheshire Fire Department has grown from its original hand-drawn Chemical Cart and Hook and Ladder Truck (the Department wouldn't have a motorized Fire Truck until 1916) to a modern force with seven engines and several other vehicles across three stations. Throughout its history the Department has remained an organization deeply connected with the community it serves. The 100 firefighters of the Department are all volunteers who dedicate their time, and risk their lives, for the safety of their neighbors. In fact, Fire Chief Jack Casner is the first paid career fire chief in the Department's history.

The volunteers and professionals of the Cheshire Fire Department continually strive to provide the utmost level of safety and security to their community. As the north side of Cheshire has seen a dramatic growth in business development, the Department has initiated plans to open a fourth fire station in north Cheshire to improve response times and quality of service. This ability to adapt and expand while remaining focused on the needs of the community has characterized the Cheshire Fire Department throughout its now 100-year history and is why the Fire Department is the oldest continually operating municipal department in Cheshire.

In reflection of the 100 years of tireless dedication to community and public safety in Cheshire, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring this 100 year anniversary of the Cheshire Fire Department, the lives and properties saved by its efforts, and the daily risks its volunteers take to protect the town of Cheshire.

CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIAM HENRY "BABE" WOOLARD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send warm regards to Mr. William Henry "Babe" Woolard who celebrated his 90th birthday on February 29, 2012. Babe is in the very unique position of being born during a Leap Year and on Leap Day. In fact, he celebrates his birthday only every four years so he has only experienced 23 actual birthdays.

Babe was born to Mr. Henderson and Ms. Ida Woolard on February 29, 1922 in Williamston, North Carolina and is one of six children. Like many in eastern North Carolina, Babe went in to farming and was a farmer for

the Lilley Families in the Lilley's Quarter section of Williamston. Later, he inherited the Woolard family farm located in the Farm Life Community of Williamston and Babe and his son Willie continue to farm the land today.

Like many Americans of his generation, Babe was called to serve his country during World War I. He bravely defended the United States and its allies against the tyranny perpetrated by the Axis of Evil by serving in the U.S. Army with the all Black 3,685th Trucking Division. I commend him for his bravery and thank him for his selfless service to this great country.

When he returned from his service in Europe with the U.S. Army, Babe married Ms. Verna Mae Brown. The two reared seven children together—Hattie, Verna, Dianne, Mary, Doris, Angela, and Willie—and they settled back in Babe's hometown of Williamston. Babe and Verna Mae were married for 70 wonderful years filled with love, caring, and compassion until she passed away on June 20, 2011.

Babe is many things, but above all else he is a man of God. He has attended Cedar Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Williamston most of his life. The fellowship and community provided by his church has sustained Babe through the highs and lows of life. I admire his faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. William Henry Woolard on his 90th birthday—or his 23rd birthday. No matter how you add it up, Babe has always lived his life to the fullest. May he celebrate this and many more birthdays in the future.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE HONORABLE LILLIAN W. BURKE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of the Honorable Lillian W. Burke, the first African American female judge in the State of Ohio.

Judge Burke was born in 1917 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1946, she graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in education and subsequently began working as a teacher in Cleveland Public Schools. While teaching, Judge Burke also attended Cleveland Marshall College of Law. She graduated with her law degree and passed the Ohio Bar in 1951.

Soon thereafter, Judge Burke served as the assistant attorney general for three years before being appointed to the Ohio Industrial Commission. Judge Burke was appointed to the Cleveland Municipal Court in 1969. She served on the bench until her retirement in 1987.

In addition to her trailblazing career as a judge, Judge Burke was deeply involved in the Greater Cleveland community. She worked with the Cleveland Restoration Society, City Planning Commission, Cleveland Foundation African-American Outreach Advisory Committee, National Council of Negro Women, City Club and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Judge Burke also set up the Lillian Walker Burke Scholarship for students of John Marshall College of Law.