

REWARDING YOUTH MENTORSHIP
IN THE NEW YEAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend anyone who dedicates his or her time to mentoring this country's impressionable youth—in any capacity, in all capacities. There is no greater gift than the selfless giving of one's time and energies to the emotional, scholastic, and moral development of another. We can all trace back in our histories that one person or group of people who set us on the straight and narrow, from whom we drew inspiration, motivation, and a sense of purpose.

For far too long, wayward youth have had few role models to emulate, few adults to guide them in an otherwise confusing, self-deprecating, and turbulent moment in their lives. For far too long, the corrosive influence of drugs, domestic abuse, academic failure, and delinquency have instilled in our youth a hopelessness that permeates far into their adolescence and even adulthood. These honorable many, who have taken the charge of leading these youngsters to the road of successes, deserve our praise and our respect, and I am thrilled to support naming this month of January "National Mentoring Month" in an attempt to do just that.

Three million youngsters are currently benefitting from a mentoring relationship, but that just isn't enough. Five times as many kids are in urgent need of guidance, and it is up to us to demonstrably reward mentors for their vows of time, commitment, and effort. A mentorship is not a task taken up lightly or without the resolve to work diligently, generously, and openly—but it provides its participants such innumerable, intrinsic rewards that it becomes a challenge, and pleasure, certainly worthy of fulfilling.

May mentors across this great Nation feel proud of the work they are doing, and may others take note of their tremendous example and develop a mentoring relationship of their own.

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES
CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times, my hometown newspaper, began its 125th year of publishing this month.

Starting from humble beginnings in the back of a Dunedin, Florida drugstore, 3 people—a doctor, dentist and printer—turned out 480 copies of the newspaper's first edition. Today, The Times is Florida's most read newspaper.

Following my remarks, I will include for the benefit of my colleagues, a column by Paul Tash, the Editor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The St. Petersburg Times, commemorating the newspaper's growth and plans to celebrate its history over the next year.

Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Times has dutifully recorded the history of our com-

munity these past 125 years, and as Paul Tash writes, "sharing in the success, suffering in the setbacks." Please join me in thanking all those past and present employees of The Times who have brought the news to our doorstep, in good times and bad, and even during the most trying of times.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 14, 2009]

OUR COMMON HISTORY: TAMPA BAY AND ITS
TIMES

(By Paul Tash, Editor, Chairman, CEO)

This year the St. Petersburg Times turns 125 years old. To mark the occasion, we are starting a weekly feature of local history, drawn from the newspaper's own pages. In their origins, neither the newspaper nor its community amounted to much.

The Times started out as a weekly in July of 1884. In the back room of a drugstore in Dunedin, three men—a doctor, a dentist and a printer—teamed up to produce the first edition. The total circulation was 480 copies. As my colleague Rob Hooker once wrote, "Their paper was like the community—small, humble and faced with an uncertain future."

Over the years, however, the frontier villages scattered around Tampa Bay grew together into a vibrant, dynamic metropolitan region, and the Times grew with it.

Today it is Florida's favorite newspaper, with the largest circulation in the state. Nelson Poynter, a generous and far-sighted owner, protected its independence, and three decades after he died, the Times remains rooted in this community, not part of a chain or conglomerate.

There have been rough patches along the way. Back in the 1930s—the last time a real estate boom collapsed into depression—St. Petersburg city government defaulted on millions of dollars in bond payments, and the public schools started charging tuition. On the outskirts of town, a sign went up warning visitors, "Do Not Come Here Seeking Work."

Those hard times also hit the Times. Advertising dropped by two-thirds. Since they had no cash, merchants paid their bills with vouchers, which the newspaper parceled out to employees as pay. At one point, the news staff dropped to 15 people, and the paper itself dwindled to eight pages.

But over the long term, the trend lines have kept climbing. Compare just two scenes.

During the World Series in 1924, a crowd gathered outside the Times' offices while an editor with a megaphone called out the play-by-play, coming by telegraph into the newsroom. Eighty-four years later and just a few blocks away, 40,000 fans gathered to watch the town's own team playing in the World Series.

For a century and a quarter, the St. Petersburg Times has recorded the unfolding story of our region, sharing in its success, suffering in the setbacks. Now we celebrate our common history by offering these slices of it. And even in this difficult stretch, we are betting that Tampa Bay's best days lie ahead. That is one of history's lessons.

IN HONOR OF GERTRUDE PINTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz, upon the recent celebration of her 100th birthday.

Gertrude Pintz was born on December 29th, 1908 in Austria-Hungary. She has been blessed over her lifetime with strength, joy, her family and friends. She is known for seeing only the good in others and beauty in life. Mrs. Pintz lives every day with a grateful heart, warm smile and positive outlook.

Mrs. Pintz married the love of her life, Sebastian, and together they raised 3 sons—Sebastian, Adam and the late Henry. She remains close with her sons, 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. As the matriarch of her family, Mrs. Pintz hosted the family's annual Thanksgiving dinner at her Cleveland home, continuing this tradition until the age of 88. In her early seventies, following the passing of her beloved husband, Mrs. Pintz embarked on pursuing her artistic talents. She enrolled in a four year art school, where she studied oil painting. To this day, her artwork adorns the homes of numerous family members and friends.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mrs. Gertrude Pintz upon the joyous occasion of her 100th birthday. Her love of family, love of life and youthful soul all serve as an inspirational example for all of us to follow. I wish Mrs. Pintz an abundance of peace, health and happiness today, and throughout the years to come.

JIM RICE'S ELECTION TO THE
BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jim Rice of Andover, MA for his election into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Regarded as one of the most dominant hitters to have played the game, Rice was a 1978 American League Most Valuable Player and an eight-time All Star. With a .298 career batting average, Rice hit 382 homeruns and 1,451 RBIs during his 16 years in Major League Baseball. Having spent his entire career in Boston, Rice becomes the fourth Hall of Fame player to have spent his entire career with the Red Sox.

Rice has also been an active member of his community, contributing his time and effort to several charitable organizations in Massachusetts. In 1979 he was named an honorary chairman of the Jimmy Fund, which supports cancer research and care at the Dana-Farber Institute in Boston. He was also recognized by the Jimmy Fund in 1992 with the Jimmy Award, which honors individuals who have shown "exceptional devotion" to cancer research. Some of his other charitable activities include working with the Neurofibromatosis Foundation of New England and raising money for toy drives for local homeless children.

Since retiring in 1989, Rice has continued his commitment to the Red Sox, working as a hitting coach and instructor. Rice also serves as a popular studio analyst on the Red Sox pre- and post-game shows for NESN.

Rice and his wife, Corine, have lived in Andover since 1975 with their two children, Carissa and Chancey.

I congratulate him for his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame and for his notable achievements throughout his career.