

RECOGNIZING THE COCKRUM FAMILY AS THE CRAWFORD COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cockrum family of Crawford County Arkansas. The Cockrum's have devoted their lives to the service of Crawford County and the State of Arkansas through the service and hard labors of cattle farming. It is because of their devotion and hard labors that they were named Crawford County's 2010 Farm Family of the Year.

For 63 years, the Arkansas Farm Family of the Year Program has honored farm families all across the State for their outstanding work both on their farms and in their communities. Recognition from the program is a reflection of the contribution to agriculture at the community and State level and its implications for improved farm practices and management.

The Cockrum's have worked diligently to contribute to the protection of the environment and the conservation of soil, water, and energy. Mr. Cockrum's journey began at the age of seventeen when he rented 32 acres of land and purchased his first twelve cows. Today, through hard work and determination, the Cockrum's now own more than 300 acres of land and two businesses.

I congratulate Randy, his wife Anjie, and their children Shelby, Tyler, and Siera for their outstanding achievements in agriculture and ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring them for this accomplishment. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors and look forward to the contributions they will offer in the future of Arkansas agriculture.

RECOGNIZING OF ARTHUR WOLF FOR DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Arthur Wolf, a great New Yorker and a great American who has devoted himself to serving others. Arthur provided top-notch public service to the citizens of the Empire State for decades as an official at the Social Security Administration and then at the New York City Department for the Aging. He has provided invaluable and expert advice to me on issues related to aging, and in particular, Social Security and Medicare, for the last seventeen years. Last month, he hosted a celebration of his upcoming 80th birthday (he will actually turn 80 on September 25) at a gathering at Aleo restaurant in Manhattan.

Here in Congress, we are elected by the people to make laws, but the job of implementing, applying and enforcing them falls to others. Throughout his professional life, Arthur Wolf has, in his own mild-mannered way, helped citizens overcome the barriers that sometimes exist between often byzantine bu-

reaucracies and the people whom government is supposed to serve.

A proud son of the Bronx, Arthur Wolf has been a consummate New Yorker throughout his life. He did venture far from home to begin his undergraduate education at the University of Georgia, where he witnessed first-hand the mean-spirited racial segregation that then permeated the region, an experience that helped inspire him to try to make a difference for the better. After two years, Arthur returned to his hometown to finish his undergraduate education at New York University, an outstanding institution of which he is a proud, loyal, generous, and highly revered alumnus. After earning his bachelors degree, Arthur became a welfare investigator. In areas like the South Bronx, Arthur Wolf ensured that often underprivileged New Yorkers got a fair shake from the government when it came to accessing benefits to which they were legitimately entitled. He was also a diligent steward of taxpayer dollars who made certain that the public till was not bilked by those who fraudulently tried to qualify for welfare benefits.

As a Social Security Administration official, Arthur helped countless senior citizens cut through red tape that stood between them and the benefits to which they were entitled. Many of these citizens would be penniless if it weren't for the dedicated work of this extraordinary man. In one memorable instance, Arthur helped an elderly widow tap into Social Security benefits to which she was unknowingly entitled, providing her with a sum in the six figures that constituted an enormous boost to her quality of life. He carries that same commitment to serving others everywhere he goes. A longtime resident of Peter Cooper Village, a bastion of middle class housing on Manhattan's East Side, Arthur often helps seniors in the neighborhood by offering uncompensated counsel on how to traverse the Social Security bureaucracy. His work ethic is only matched by his remarkable selflessness. A former Scout Master, he helped introduce inner-city kids to the great outdoors. For many years, he also volunteered his time hosting a radio show on Fordham University's radio station, WFUV, answering callers' Social Security inquiries.

An active member of many community, civic and fraternal organizations, Arthur Wolf is a Full Mason and upstanding member of the Grand Lodge of Accepted Masons of the State of New York, which he has served as Secretary for many years. He remains a longtime member of the Executive Board of the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club.

Madam Speaker, for his extraordinary contributions to others and to the civic life of our nation's greatest city, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Arthur Wolf.

COMING HOME: TRANSITION FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO CIVILIAN LIFE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise on this 4th of July Independence Day Weekend to congratulate and thank

Congressmen SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr. and CHARLES B. RANGEL for joining me last year in convening a powerful national dialogue at the 21st Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 39th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) held in Washington, DC. Our September 25, 2009 forum titled: Coming Home: Transitioning from Military Service to Civilian Life, brought together members of the Obama administration, federal agencies, distinguished scholars and professionals, and two of today's highest ranking black military officers to discuss the important challenges and obstacles facing thousands of returning soldiers and veterans who struggle to negotiate family life, jobs, education and health care after honorable discharge from the U.S. military.

As is our tradition, the morning session began with Dr. Zachery Tims, Jr., Senior Pastor, New Destiny Christian Center (NDCC) giving the invocation to bless the occasion, and inspiring international singer Brenda Jackson singing our national anthem, and a stirring rendition of 'Lift Every Voice and Sing,' the Negro National Anthem by Paul Lawrence Dunbar before a standing-room-only crowd of 400 people.

Rep. CHARLES B. RANGEL provided the framework for the forum using his own experience as a Korean War soldier who had experienced the difficulty of transitioning to the real world after a tour of combat. He opened the morning saying, "I went from being a respected and decorated Army staff sergeant to being viewed as nothing more than a high school drop-out." He was able to navigate his way using the GI Bill from underemployed in the garment district of New York City to obtaining his undergraduate and law degrees. But not everyone is as fortunate.

"Although we have a very effective Department of Veterans Affairs, thousands of today's veterans are falling through the cracks. Most of those who flounder are simply not aware of the assistance available from the VA and other service organizations," RANGEL said. "Our vision was that any veteran who walked into this session lost or disillusioned about the future—after hearing our speakers—would walk out feeling that the VA was there for him or her."

Our keynote speaker was Secretary Eric K. Shinseki, of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the first Asian American Four Star General in American military history, a real 'Soldier's Soldier.' He was joined by two other distinguished military officers, Rear Admiral Michelle Howard, the first female graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy to command a U.S. naval vessel, and Four Star General William "Kip" Ward.

Adm. Howard made history as the commander of the USS *Rushmore* that led the successful rescue effort of Captain Richard Phillips and his crew of the *Mearsk Alabama* captured by Somali pirates during April 2009. Gen. Ward is a Morgan State University graduate and the highest ranking African American in the U.S. military. He spoke eloquently about his military career. He serves as the first-ever commander of the newly formed U.S. AFRICOM, one of six geographical commands within the Department of Defense, tasked with training African soldiers and delivering aid and resources to the continent's residents. Also in attendance were retired Generals Julius Becton, George Price, and Robert Cocroft.