

their only child, a son Jay was born, and Irv took on one of the great roles of his life as a parent. He was a loving role model to Jay, who called him his most admired person. Just three years after Jay was born, Irv was admitted to the California Bar Association and he spent the next 30 years as a respected practicing attorney in both New York and California.

Irv's competitive nature and enduring spirit compelled his interests throughout his life. He had a passion for sports and was a dedicated Los Angeles Lakers fan. He also held a deep-seated interest in politics and closely followed elections and the political process. In the recent midterm election cycle, Irv made use of the latest technology to keep track of races across the country by following the elections on his new Apple iPad device. Each election cycle, Irv lent his support to candidates he felt would best serve his local community as well as the country he was so proud of.

Later in life, Irv's most rewarding experiences came from caring for his ailing wife during her ten-year battle with Alzheimer's. It was during the time he cared for Harriet that Irv's true nature shone through. His love, coupled with his optimism and interminable selflessness, provided comfort to Harriet, to Jay, to their family and to their many friends affected by Harriet's condition.

Irv had a genuine love for life and humor about every aspect of it. He was the most positive person I've ever known, a man who demonstrated very clearly what he believed in by how he lived. He was a man of integrity and intelligence, grace and goodness.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincere condolences to Jay Gellert, the light of Irv's life and the son of sons. In Irv's passing, we've lost a great friend and patriot whose dedication and service made our nation a better place. We mourn his passing, but take comfort in the knowledge that his legacy lives on through the wisdom he shared, through the humor and keen observations he displayed, and through all the people he touched throughout his long and extraordinary life.

RECOGNIZING CHAUNCEY POSTON

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Chauncey Poston to the City of Grass Valley, California.

Council Member Poston has a long history of service to others, beginning with his time with the United States Navy serving in Vietnam and Guam, following which he returned home to California where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from California State University, Humboldt. Since 1978, Chauncey has lived in Nevada County, where he has served as President of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, as a member of the Grass Valley Planning Commission and the Grass Valley Traffic Safety Review Committee and since 2006, as a member of the Grass Valley City Council. Chauncey is well known for his many accomplishments and contributions to our community, including his work to ensure the

fiscal solvency of the City's infrastructure programs, facilitating the cooperation between local government, businesses and interest groups and working to address each issue the City has faced as it has grown: from traffic congestion to public safety and economic development. It is a remarkable statement of Council Member Poston's service that every part of our community, from businesses to fine and performing arts groups to environmental advocates, felt they were well represented by his efforts.

Grass Valley City Administrator Dan Holler described Chauncey well: "Throughout his years on the City Council he was dedicated to building a better community by listening to residents and businesses, by being involved in civic organizations, by making hard decisions and by focusing on the long-term vision of the City of Grass Valley." Madam Speaker, in a time where localities across our country are struggling to find competent and effective leaders, Council Member Chauncey Poston has served as a fine example of the culture of service that ought to be reflected in all elected officials, and it is my privilege to rise today in recognition of that service.

COMMENDING BRO. STUART TOMS
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to commend Bro. Stuart Toms upon the occasion of his retirement from the Sweetwater Baptist Church. His unwavering dedication and service to Jackson Parish is admirable and deserving of our appreciation.

At a young age, Bro. Stuart began his impressive list of endeavors. In 1959, he was named class valedictorian of Quitman High School. He went on to further his education at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU), which today is known as the University of Louisiana-Monroe. Here, Bro. Stuart excelled as a point guard on the basketball team. In 1961-1962, he helped direct his team to their first league title in the Gulf South Conference (GSC). He was named 1963 All-GSC First Team and was inducted into the NLU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986.

After graduating from NLU, Bro. Stuart continued sharing his love of basketball as a high school coach. In this capacity, he also worked as a math teacher and principal until he retired from the school system in 1984. His talents on the sidelines matched his impressive skills on the court proven by the numerous accolades he earned for his coaching abilities. At his high school alma mater, he coached back-to-back Class B State Championship basketball teams in 1970 and 1971. Among his honors, Bro. Stuart was named Class B Coach of the Year for the State of Louisiana in 1970, inducted into the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989 and inducted into the Jackson Parish Sports Hall of Fame this year.

Bro. Stuart commenced his career service to the Lord when he was ordained as a Baptist minister in October 1983. Following his or-

dination, he began as the pastor of Sweetwater Baptist Church where he has continued to serve the congregation for the past 27 years. Through the years, he has addressed numerous revivals, presided over many weddings and funerals and has been on two international mission trips.

Beyond his professional career, Bro. Stuart has been married for 39 years to Johnette Pardue Toms. They are the loving parents of Stuart "Stu" Toms, Jr., Dr. Catherine Lucas and Mrs. Julie Nelson, and the proud grandparents of Ty and Kale Toms, Lily Lucas and Andrew Nelson.

I have been fortunate to have attended his worship services for several years. This truly gracious man is a friend to many, and it is his connection and involvement in his community for which we should all strive to model. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bro. Stuart Toms. His commitment, compassion and leadership warrant this laudable recognition.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL L. KERLEY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, on December 31, 2010, Michael L. Kerley, Esq. will retire from the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors after 41 years of dedicated service.

It is a rarity in our Nation's Capital to find someone who has worked in one place for more than 10 years. For Mike to have been with NAIFA for over four decades is a tremendous achievement and a testament to his devotion and his character.

Many of us in Washington know Mike as a passionate advocate for the life insurance industry and those individual agents who work tirelessly to help Americans take the steps necessary to protect their loved ones and their employees from financial disaster in the wake of life's inevitable risks. Members on both sides of the aisle have had the pleasure of working with Mike and know him to be a man of high integrity and sincerity.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike on an incredibly successful career and wishing him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 626 on, H.R. 4994, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments, The Medicare & Medicaid Extenders Act of 2010 Agree to Senate Amendment, I am not recorded because I was absent because I gave birth to my baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 627 on, H.R. 6412, On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Pass, Access to Criminal History Records for State Sentencing Commissions Act of