

families with one to three members receive one bag of food and families of four members or more receive two bags of food—amounts that are expected to supplement a week's meals.

AFAC obtains surplus food at a minimal cost from the Capital Area Community Food Bank and at no cost from local bakeries, supermarkets, farmer's markets, food drives and private donors.

I would like to commend the staff and volunteers of the Arlington Food Assistance Center who work hard to provide needy families in Arlington with groceries each week.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION
COMMENDING W. MARK FELT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a Resolution commending W. Mark Felt for his extraordinary service to the country in exposing the "Watergate" scandal. Good faith whistle blowers like Mr. Felt represent high ideals of public service and the American tradition of challenging abuses of power. They also provide the diversity of views and information necessary for the checks and balances in a democracy.

As the world now knows, Mr. Felt, the then Deputy Director of the FBI, disclosed that he was the confidential source known as "Deep Throat," that assisted Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in their investigation of the Watergate scandal, which eventually led the House to the verge of impeachment and the ultimate resignation of President Nixon.

Quite frequently, it is courageous whistle blowers such as Mr. Felt who are responsible for disclosing corruption in our government. We have no doubt that absent Mr. Felt's involvement, we would never have learned about the illegalities and obstruction of justice at the highest levels of our government, up to and including President Nixon.

This Resolution recognizes that Mr. Felt was not only a courageous public servant, willing to risk his career to expose wrongdoing, but a model agent and administrator as well. I therefore believe it is altogether fitting and proper that Mr. Felt's service be commemorated and honored by the Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGETOWN
COUNTY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Georgetown County, South Carolina, and its efforts to make healthcare services accessible to its rural population.

Several years ago, Georgetown County conceived the idea of turning a former schoolhouse—purchased for just one dollar—into an affordable and accessible healthcare facility for residents who previously had to travel more than a half-hour to reach needed

wellness resources. This center is critical, since more than 15 percent of citizens in the area do not have transportation, 56 percent live below 200 percent of the poverty level, and the community is not served by public transit.

I am extremely pleased to announce the completion of the Choppee Regional Resource Center, a medical "One Stop Shop," providing the first step towards an integrated, holistic healthcare delivery system for some of South Carolina's most underserved residents. Residents now have access to medical care, drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services, children's and seniors' services, and adult education opportunities.

This center is important to me because it brings together key players from across the state to make a difference in the individual lives of those who too often are not reached by broader efforts. It is these underserved people who each of us is sent here to help in any and every way we can.

Georgetown County continues to develop the Choppee facilities and is now implementing a second phase of the project: the creation of a Family Wellness Center. Together, these resources will provide comprehensive healthcare, vocational, and support services to benefit the county's rural residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I commend the Georgetown County Council, the Administrator, School District, and all those individuals and groups who have been so personally involved in making this center a reality. Without your help, the citizens of Choppee would still be forced to travel great distances, at great expense and effort for the day-to-day services they need to live healthy, productive lives.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI ROBERT S.
GOLDSTEIN

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Robert S. Goldstein. Rabbi Goldstein is a community leader, spiritual advisor, and dear friend. For 15 years, Rabbi Goldstein has led the congregation at Temple Emanuel in Andover, Massachusetts.

Rabbi Robert Goldstein was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1953. He was raised in a large and compassionate family. His mother taught in an inner-city elementary school, and volunteers her free time at Jewish charities and other groups serving the community. His late father was deeply involved in the Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts.

Since coming to Temple Emanuel in 1990, Rabbi Goldstein has grown his congregation, and endeavored to make Judaism more accessible to all who come to it with an open ear and an open mind. He has led his flock to explore the meaning of the Jewish faith to find purpose and spiritual enrichment. Under Rabbi Goldstein's leadership, Temple Emanuel has expanded its membership to over 600 families with more than 400 children in its religious school.

In addition to his work at Temple Emanuel, Rabbi Goldstein serves on the Board of the Lawrence General Hospital, and he is a trustee of the Edgewood Retirement Community.

Rabbi Goldstein continues to foster dialogue between Catholics and Jews at the Center for the Study of Jewish/Christian Relations at Merrimack College.

On June 17, 2005 Rabbi Goldstein's congregation, friends, neighbors and loved ones will recognize him for the wisdom and compassion he has shown to all, and for dedicating his life to sharing the virtues of the Jewish faith and heritage.

The people of the Merrimack Valley, of all faiths, are truly blessed to have Rabbi Goldstein as a friend, neighbor, counselor and spiritual leader.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MID-MISSOURI ENERGY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to announce the grand opening of Mid-Missouri Energy, Inc. Many Missourians have worked hard to create this farmer-owned ethanol production facility in Malta Bend, Missouri. Ground was broken on the facility on October 4, 2003, and the facility was opened for business on June 3, 2005.

From the time I was young, I was taught that a farmer's livelihood depends on two things: the weather and the markets. With the opening of Mid-Missouri Energy, farmers will have an additional market for their corn and will be able to get more bang for their agricultural buck. Missouri farmers, especially those who make the Fourth District home, will now have a facility that allows them to capitalize on the growing renewable fuel opportunities across the nation. Ethanol production is not only beneficial to the farmers of America, but to the American public at large. Ethanol is a renewable energy resource that, when utilized most effectively, will reduce America's dependency on imported oil and decrease pollution.

The ethanol production facility in Malta Bend will also benefit the rural economy. Farmers will not only have an additional market for their corn, but Mid-Missouri Energy will employ rural citizens and will have a far reaching, positive impact on the local economy. Mid-Missouri Energy's founding fathers, especially Ryland Utlaut and Don Arth, deserve credit for making Mid-Missouri Energy a reality.

As Mid-Missouri Energy opens and begins to produce ethanol, I know that Members of Congress will join me in honoring their outstanding work.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGIA JONES
AYERS: COMMUNITY LEADER,
CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION AND
ROLE MODEL

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise in tribute to Georgia Jones Ayers, a community servant and civil rights pioneer who for decades has spent her days righting the wrongs

she sees in society. I have known her for many years, and, I can speak from first-hand experience about the positive impact she has had on our community and on the lives of countless young people. She says what she thinks, she stands up for what she believes in, and she works hard to achieve her goals. She is a person of intelligence, determination and accomplishment.

Some of Ms. Ayers' experiences and deeds were recently chronicled by South Florida's preeminent political reporter, Michael Putney, in an article that ran in the Miami Herald on June 1, 2005. I want to share this article with my colleagues, so they can get a sense of this remarkable woman's character.

[From the Miami Herald, June 1, 2005]

COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, INJUSTICE IS A GREAT
MOTIVATOR

(By Michael Putney)

Community activist Georgia Jones Ayers carries more than memories of racism in Miami; she carries the proof. She keeps it in her purse as a constant reminder. It's a yellowed, well-worn abstract of title to her grandmother's home in "Railroad Chops (sic), Colored Addition." That's the home where Ayers, now 76, was born and raised. And which her grandmother, Eliza Pierce, lost to the city of Miami, in a racist land grab and for \$3.29 in unpaid taxes. The tax sale is dated Aug. 29, 1924.

"It's because of this," she says, brandishing the legal document like a dark talisman, "that I am who I am and do what I do."

For more than half a century, Ayers has worked to right what she considers wrongs done to her community, and by her community. Currently, she runs Alternatives to Incarceration out of the Metro Justice Building where first-time offenders are released to her custody to complete programs that allow them to avoid having a permanent criminal record.

Then there's her Janet Reno New Chance Alternative School, which takes disruptive sixth-to-eighth graders and instills discipline and learning in them. "I don't believe in brutality," Ayers says, "but when I was in school I'd get a spanking for arriving late. These days you tell 'em you're going to tan their backside, and they say they'll call HRS (the predecessor to DCF). But that's what some of 'em need."

Make no mistake, Ayers is tough. And smart. And still angry after all these years about the injustice done to her grandmother.

She says that her grandfather, Charles Pierce, went in 1923 to pay the overdue property taxes with \$100 he had saved from his job with Henry Flagler's railroad. But he was never seen again—probably murdered for the money.

"My grandmother would have paid those taxes if she'd been able to read," Ayers told me. "But she was illiterate and couldn't read the notices. So she lost her home for a few dollars." It was on land in Allapattah between 46th and 50th streets and 12th and 14th avenues that had been set aside for black railroad workers. But Ayers says whites eventually wanted the land and found ways to seize it. First, through foreclosure because of unpaid taxes.

"And then on Aug. 1, 1947 at 11 a.m. the police came in and evicted 35 families, including mine, because they wanted the land for an all-white school."

That was Allapattah Elementary. Ayers attended Liberty City Primary, the predecessor to what is now Charles R. Drew Elementary. On the 25th anniversary of the McDuffie riots we stood across from the

school in an empty lot at Northwest 62nd Street and 17th Avenue. One of the many empty lots along Martin Luther King Boulevard since the 1980 riots.

"I knew Arthur McDuffie," she says. "He sold insurance like I did for many years. He was a sweet, gentle man."

On the Saturday in May 1980 when four Metro policemen were acquitted of beating McDuffie to death, Ayers went to the Metro Justice Building with other black leaders to organize a peaceful protest. "We wanted an orderly meeting where people could vent their anger," she recalls.

The anger could not be contained. Injustice is a great motivator. It's what keeps Ayers going with vigor.

She's upset that Haitian immigrants fail to recognize or respect what American blacks went through here before they arrived. She's upset that black kids who struggle to learn standard English are expected to learn Spanish. "I'm not prejudiced against Haitians or Cubans. I just want people to respect our heritage." She says this caressing that abstract of title, which is smooth from touching but still carries a sharp sting.

I generally reject the idea of reparations for slavery. Many generations stand between us and the direct victims, although the shame of slavery endures. But Ayers is still very much alive, and she carries proof of the racism that robbed her family. Twice, in fact. How do we repay her? I'm not sure, but we can begin by simply saying thank you for channeling so much anger into so many good works.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN HAITI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make note of the distressing developments unfolding in Haiti. The situation in that country is becoming increasingly unstable, with elections scheduled to take place a few months from now. The current state of Haiti does not bode well for a peaceful and legitimized election process.

A June 9th article in the Miami Herald entitled "Senior U.S. official visits unsettled Haiti" points out that the ongoing instability is causing widespread discontentment with the interim government led by Prime Minister Gerard Latortue. The lack of confidence is even being voiced by respected and influential members of Haitian society, such as Ariel Henry, a member of the U.N. sanctioned "Council of Wisemen" which nominated Latortue to head the interim government.

Mr. Henry has gone so far as to call the governmental performance of the country a failure, and has warned that the Council of Elders may call for Latortue's resignation if some semblance of stability is not achieved soon.

It has been over a year since the forced removal of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the nation's democratically elected leader. Without question, conditions in the country are worse since Aristide's removal due to the widespread violence and human-rights violations perpetrated by the lawless elements which overthrew the Aristide government.

Indeed, 700 people have died in less than a year in Haiti. The violence is escalating to such a level that the U.S. State Department's top official for the Americas, Roger Noriega, arranged a last-minute visit this week to assess the situation. Secretary of State Rice herself labeled the developments in Haiti "troubling" on Monday, and called for close examination of the strength of the country's U.N. force.

On the election front, all is not well. The nation's electoral council is stricken by internal strife and wrangling. A campaign to register up to 4.5 million eligible voters has signed up only 113,000 in a month and a half. The only party with wide support among Haiti's impoverished majority is the Lavalas Party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Still angered by his removal, the party has so far refused to participate in the upcoming election.

All this presents a very troubling picture for Haiti. In the short-term the U.N. force must be increased. In addition, all the stakeholders involved must take a long and hard look at whether the scheduled date for Haitian elections is practical considering the current reality.

[From the Miami Herald, June 9, 2005]

SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL VISITS UNSETTLED
HAITI

(By Jacqueline Charles and Joe Mozingo)

The U.S. State Department's top man for Latin America and the Caribbean arrived in Haiti on Wednesday to assess a surging wave of violence and increasing demands for the resignation of U.S.-backed Prime Minister Gerard Latortue.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega met with the political head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission and other top officials in Haiti at the start of his two-day visit.

Haiti's violence has turned so worrisome that even the so-called Council of Wisemen—a group of respected Haitians that picked Latortue to head the interim government after the hasty departure of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide last year—has lost confidence in him.

"It's a failure," said Ariel Henry, a neurosurgeon and vice chairman of the seven-member council. "There is no governance." He added that the council will soon issue an ultimatum to Latortue: bring the country under control in 30 days or resign.

What leverage the council has is unclear. But Henry's statement carries political weight.

During the weekend, a meeting of about 20 political parties sponsored by the U.N. mission here came largely to the same conclusion about Latortue, although three major parties say they would not go so far as to call for his resignation.

The Bush administration has pinned its hopes for stability on Latortue's ability to pave the way for elections this fall. But many Haitians doubt the country is ready, given a paroxysm of recent violence in the capital.

The 7,400-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission that began arriving in Haiti after Aristide fled during an armed revolt has not been able to tamp down the kidnappings, carjackings and shootouts that have left hundreds dead in recent months and have kept a ruined economy from recovering.

Washington has stood by Latortue and focused more on the need to strengthen the U.N. peacekeeping force, which has been criticized as too passive. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice this week said the U.N. mission needed to increase its forces or conduct more aggressive operations. She appeared to reject a growing push among the Haitian political class for the return of the U.S. Marines deployed here in the three months after Aristide's departure. She said it was crucial that the Brazilian-led force in Haiti succeed.

"It was a real breakthrough for this hemisphere to have Brazil in the lead and then to have other Western Hemisphere states actually engaged in peacekeeping," Rice said at a news conference Tuesday. "We are devoted to making that mechanism work, and so we are talking with the U.N. about what more needs to be done."

Chantal Regnault contributed from Port-au-Prince.