

was born on November 3, 1924, in the Hope-well Community near Geraldine, Alabama. Mr. Galloway was a Navy veteran who served stateside in Chincoteague, Virginia as an air mechanic, near the end of World War II. He later married the former Miss Pauline Mayes on October 17, 1970. Until retirement, the two of them taught school at Geraldine High School. Mrs. Galloway taught remediation for 30 years, and Mr. Galloway taught history and also coached basketball.

As a devoted teacher, Mr. Galloway also had a passion for the contributions of veterans to our society, and a desire to honor those contributions. Mr. Galloway started the Geraldine Veterans Day Program. Spanning three decades, 2005 marks its 31st year. This program has become a Geraldine staple, and its special nature is attested to by the fact that it prompts surrounding communities to make plans to attend each year.

In recent years, the Geraldine School administration, in conjunction with the Student Government Association, has sponsored the Veterans Day Program and has taken it to new heights. The well-organized program, with the participation of the SGA, sponsors, faculty, and of course the veterans themselves includes being escorted to special seating, commemorative speeches, drama productions, and martial music in front of the student body, which numbers over 1,100. Each veteran is recognized by name, service branch, years of service and theater of operations. There is a special memorial component of the program, to honor those veterans who have passed away during the year. Upon conclusion of the formal program, the veterans and their families share a meal together and have the opportunity to visit the school, where the halls and doorways have been decorated with a patriotic theme.

It is with sadness I note that Mr. James Galloway passed away on July 13, 2005. I want to publicly express how deeply he will be missed. His efforts will not be forgotten or unnoticed, and although we mourn his absence, we celebrate his many years of unselfish service to the community. His sincerity and devotion to country and service shine to this day. The Veterans Day Program at Geraldine School is one that has enriched countless lives for 31 years. Through Mr. James Bertral Galloway's efforts, and those who followed him, the Geraldine School community has a greater appreciation of the sacrifices made by our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Monday November 7, 2005 and Tuesday November 8, 2005 due to unavoidable circumstances in my Congressional District. Had I been present on November 7, I would have voted: "yea" to H. Con Res. 260—Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*, and the continuing need for mutual inter-religious respect and dialogue; "yea" to H.R. 1973—the Water for the Poor Act of

2005 and "yea" to H. Res. 444—the Gynecological Resolution for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education.

Had I been present on November 8, I would have voted: "no" on the motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair; "yea" to H. Res. 38—Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; "yea" to H. Res. 302—Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States; and "yea" to H.R. 3770—Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act.

FAIR ACCESS FOSTER CARE ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Fair Access Foster Care Act of 2005. This bill will provide for fair access to foster care maintenance payments by adding private for-profit agencies to the list of eligible recipients. Currently, State and non-profit agencies are the only therapeutic foster care providers eligible for this funding. Children with special medical, psychological, emotional, and social needs are the most vulnerable in the foster care system. Congress should provide strong support for all agencies willing to be involved in these fragile lives.

For children who enter foster care, separation from birth parents is traumatic, and separation from siblings who share a common history is a devastating, ultimately isolating loss. Since the 1980s, researchers have focused increasing attention on the importance of sibling ties. Siblings who are placed together have been known to transition more smoothly into new homes, and most researchers agree that attachments between siblings are critically important. In recent years, many states have taken action to help siblings stay together.

I am pleased to share with you an encouraging story of hope from my district. The Salvation Army chapter in Wichita, Kansas, conducts an annual birth family Christmas party and a summer picnic at Camp Hiawatha that provides an opportunity to reunite foster care children and their birth families. In addition to these annual events, the staff works with United Methodist Youthville to provide sibling visits a couple times a month. The foster care parents are required to make the connection for these visits with the foster child's siblings and/or parents.

In May of this year, there were 4,789 foster care children in the State of Kansas, and 542,000 in the country. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the average stay for a child in the foster care system is 33 months. About 44 percent of these children reunite with their birth parents. Over 50 percent of foster children become juvenile delinquents, and the same percentage does not complete high school. These statistics speak of the desperate need for a good and solid foster care system, and of the com-

mendable work so many agencies and families are willing to do for these children. Children in the foster care system become the responsibility of us all and their lives are changed forever when Americans begin to take that responsibility personally. My colleague Congressman TOM DELAY has both fostered children and been involved with foster care programs for years and I commend his work on this issue.

I am proud to support this legislation that will increase the access and opportunity for therapeutic foster care for our Nation's children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a personal explanation. Earlier today, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes 573, 574, 575 and 576 due to a prior obligation in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 573 (to Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair on the Obey Motion to Instruct the Conferees on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006), "yea" on rollcall vote 574 (H. Res. 38, Expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development H.R. 1973, The Water for the Poor Act of 2005) and "yea" on rollcall vote 575 (H. Res. 302, Recognizing and commending the continuing dedication and commitment of employers of the members of the National Guard and the other reserve components who have been mobilized during the Global War on Terrorism and in defense of the United States and "yea" on rollcall Vote 576 (H.R. 3770, Grant W. Green Post Office Building Designation Act).

RECOGNITION OF HONORABLE THOMAS R. SUOZZI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, this year, *Governing.com*, a leading online publication for and about State and local governments and a subsidiary of *Congressional Quarterly*, announced their list of the 2005 Public Officials of the Year. Only eight State, county and local leaders from throughout our Nation received this most noteworthy award. It is an honor for me to bring to the attention of my colleagues and this House one of those eight outstanding public officials, the Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi, County Executive of Nassau County, New York.

Tom Suozzi is a true leader. He has led Nassau County for the past four years with common, practical sense; with an approach toward running government as a business; with a vision to the future while not forgetting our past; all the while making paramount the needs of the people of Nassau County. He has established a record as County Executive,