

Decades later, when he finally answered the calling, he was the father of six children.

Maxwell preached throughout Central Florida. He became minister of Orlando's St. John Missionary Baptist in 1964 and remained there until 2001.

A man who left school in the third grade, Maxwell obtained his high-school diploma later in life and would become known for his intellect and eloquence. That was his entry into the worlds of the humble and the mighty.

"He was not pretentious, even though he was very intelligent, very capable," Lynum said.

"He is going to be remembered as an advocate, but not just for the homeless. He worked in the community unselfishly."

Maxwell's life spanned the Ocoee race riot of 1920 to the civil-rights struggles of the 1960s to the election of blacks to public office.

And he remembered it all until the end.

"He was just a rich repository of African-American history in Central Florida," Bracy said. "He was a living legacy."

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ

##### HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, millions of Iraqis turned out to vote, and the fledgling democracy in Iraq took another step forward. I join all my colleagues in commending the Iraqi men and women for their action, and continue to thank the American men and women who are honorably serving abroad. Unfortunately, despite this important step, there still is a lack of leadership from the White House or from the Majority on the strategy that will bring our soldiers home victorious and bring them home soon.

And yet again, an opportunity for a meaningful debate on Iraq has failed to emerge. This debate must occur, and it must occur now. We see Iraqis voting, but we don't know when their governmental authority will take hold. We see the Iraqi army training, but we don't know when they will be ready to independently defend their nation. We see American troops serving and dying, but we don't know when they will return.

A strategy must be outlined, both to the American people and to the Iraqi people, which demonstrates a path to success. Rhetoric must be replaced with substance for such a strategy to develop. I believe that a concentrated effort will be necessary to urge the Iraqi people to take a lead in the war efforts and in the redevelopment efforts. Only by accelerating the transfer of responsibility to the Iraqis will they be ready to lead their nation toward a stronger democracy sooner rather than later.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the President finally admitted that this war was based on several false pretenses and was supported by claims and arguments that were wrong. The President and the Majority must admit that this continued lack of planning on their part is most importantly a disservice to our soldiers, a disservice to Congress, and a disservice to the American people. If we do not learn from this mistake it will be repeated—and the consequence will be more loss of American lives. I again join others in calling for a debate on

Iraq, I call for a real strategy and a real plan for success, and I applaud the Iraqi people for their recent success in taking part in the democratic process.

#### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL TONY A. IMONDI

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Tony A. Imondi is retiring after a long and distinguished career.

Colonel Imondi received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics from Dowling College in 1975. After completing Officer Training School in 1976, he entered the Air Force. In 1981, he received a Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

In 1987, he joined the B-2 Stealth Bomber program and became a member of the B-2 Operational Test and Evaluation team and the Deputy Commander for Operations of the 31st Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards AFB, CA. In September 1991, he became Strategic Air Command's very first B-2 pilot. He subsequently moved to Whiteman AFB, MO, upon delivery of the first production B-2. He was appointed Deputy Commander of the 509th Operations Group at Whiteman AFB, MO, in December 1993.

After his promotion to Colonel, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Following his distinguished graduation from ICAF, he served two years on the staff of the Secretary of Defense monitoring weapons testing before returning to Whiteman as the Commander of the 509th Operations Group in 1998.

In 2000, Colonel Imondi assumed duties as the Vice Commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In September 2001, after the terrorist attacks on the United States, Colonel Imondi deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as Vice Commander of the 28th AEW, conducting combat missions in Afghanistan. In 2002, Colonel Imondi was assigned to the Directorate of Operations, Headquarters AETC. Colonel Imondi is a command pilot with more than 5,500 hours of flying experience in a wide variety of Air Force aircraft.

Colonel Imondi's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Aerial Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Colonel Tony A. Imondi for his exception commitment to the United States Air Force and the United States of America.

PROVIDING THAT HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS HELD BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors to this resolution for their good intentions in opposing terrorism and promoting peace in the Middle East. However, I am concerned that it could have the opposite effect.

I join my colleagues in reaffirming the United States' total commitment to the security of Israel. I condemn Hamas wholeheartedly as a terrorist group whose aims are the destruction of Israel and whose tactics of murder are inexcusable and unjustifiable. They commit horrific terror attacks against innocent Israelis and, in doing so, set back the aspirations of the Palestinian people to statehood.

Through its social service networks and other actions, Hamas has made itself an important political force in Palestinian society. Therefore, the reality is that the way to defeat Hamas begins at the ballot box. I agree with leading Israeli and American security experts who believe that any efforts to exclude Hamas will only backfire and strengthen them. Instead, we must recommit to working against Hamas—to marginalize them, weaken them, disarm them, contain them, strengthen their democratic opponents, limit their power and influence, and eventually eliminate them.

As General (Ret.) Ephraim Sneh—the former West Bank military governor and Deputy Israeli Defense Minister—wrote in the Washington Post, "Under current conditions in the Palestinian territories, especially given the Palestinian government's weakness, political containment should precede the dismantling of Hamas's military infrastructure. The urgent objective is to defeat it in the next parliamentary elections. Steps that could strengthen it in the elections should be strictly avoided. Attempts to postpone the elections yet again, or to prevent Hamas's participation, or Israeli disruption of the elections as 'punishment' for the participation of Hamas, will strengthen Hamas in the Palestinian street instead of weakening it."

I am concerned that this resolution sends a message that would be harmful to Israeli security and set back efforts to establish the vision of a democratic Palestinian state that lives side-by-side with Israel in peace. Therefore, I cannot support the resolution.

RECOGNIZING CENTENARIAN  
ELSIE JOHNSON OF HERNANDO  
COUNTY, FLORIDA

##### HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsie Johnson of Hernando County, Florida.

Elsie has done something that all of us strive for, but that very few of us I will ever accomplish, celebrate her 101st birthday.

Born April 17, 1904 in Coventry, Connecticut, Elsie Johnson attended school in

Massachusetts. She worked for seventeen years at Sears where she manufactured shears. Married to Hugo Johnson in 1921, she and her husband were blessed with four children, nineteen grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. She has proudly seen all of her children married and make lives of their own. Married for forty-two years, the happiest events in Elsie's life were her wedding day and the birth of her first daughter.

Elsie moved to Hernando County with her daughter and says that her favorite part of the county is the nice and friendly people who live there. Today Elsie says that she enjoys her crochet work and doing her housework. Passing on the wisdom of her years, Elsie says that her advice to young people today is to "work for what you have and don't expect it to be given to you and to develop higher values."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Elsie Johnson for reaching her 101st birthday. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING AN  
AMERICAN GIANT, CONGRESS-  
MAN JOHN D. DINGELL, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, certainly I would like to associate myself with the previous remarks of congratulations, admiration, and appreciation expressed by numerous members of this House about our esteemed and revered colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL of Michigan. It is my opinion that wisdom is the invaluable contribution which Chairman DINGELL continues to offer our deliberations; it is wisdom, gained from years of hard work, experience and keen analytical observations. At a time of relentless public policy turmoil and frequent partisan confrontations, this institution needs well-anchored, seasoned, counseling to blend with the know-how and energy of the fresh and the young. JOHN DINGELL's fifty-year life investment in the House of Representatives continually produces a dividend for all Americans.

LETTER TO CONGRESS FROM THE  
DAUGHTERS OF FORMER SEN-  
ATOR PAUL TSONGAS

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, throughout his distinguished career, our former colleague, Senator Paul Tsongas, worked tirelessly to ensure that our environment and our nation's natural treasures would be preserved for future generations of Americans. He was particularly proud of his leadership in the Senate that led to the original designation of approximately 18 million acres of land in Alaska, including the Arctic Coastal Plain, as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Nothing better demonstrates the importance of the idea of generational responsibility for which he fought

so stridently than the statement below from his three daughters—Ashley, Katina and Molly. Senator Tsongas understood that he had a duty to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for his daughters, and this Congress must understand that it has a charge to continue to preserve this unspoiled wilderness for future generations.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, the threat to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has never been greater, but so is the support of American families for keeping drilling away from this magnificent pristine ecological gem. This statement of the Tsongas family is eloquent testimony to the fact that the wilderness values of our wildlife refuge system are eternal, whereas the energy value of a few oil wells will always be fleeting.

Letter to Congress from the daughters of former Senator Paul Tsongas:

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We are writing to express our hope that you will vote to keep any authority for oil and gas drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge out of the budget reconciliation bill. Our father, Sen. Paul Tsongas, believed the most valuable opportunity afforded to any member of Congress is the opportunity to make this country and this world a better place for future generations. The principle of generational responsibility was both grand and personal—he fought for America's children and for us, his three daughters and his future grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For this reason, he cosponsored the legislation to establish the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with the expectation that it would not only be his enduring gift to us but also Congress's legacy to America's future generations. In doing so, he entrusted us with the responsibility to ensure that this unique natural resource remains protected, not just for a few decades, but for generations to come.

In the years after he left the Senate, our father would cite the creation of this magnificent wild arctic sanctuary as one of the accomplishments he was most proud of in his life. We know that he would be fighting for its preservation today. As his daughters and as Americans, we treasure the gift he gave us and the responsibility it carries. We take this responsibility very seriously and hope that you do as well.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF KOREAN-AMERICAN  
DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 487, supporting the goals and ideals of Korean-American Day. This important resolution also recognizes the 103rd anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States.

In January 1903 the first Korean immigrants came to the United States. Since then, Korean-Americans have raised families, participated in their communities, and contributed to the economy.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Korean-Americans living in my congressional district. These hard-working individuals have started numerous businesses which help to strengthen the economy of New York City.

Our nation's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, and I am pleased that this resolution honors the achievements of this vibrant community.

TRIBUTE TO OLGA DEFELIPPO

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both great pride and sadness that I remember Mrs. Olga DeFelippo, a distinguished, life-long member of the Bay Ridge, Brooklyn community, a tireless advocate for the developmentally disabled, and an exemplary American, who recently passed away on November 3rd at the age of 88.

Today, I honor her memory as a selfless defender for those who could not defend themselves. As a mother of a developmentally disabled child herself, whom no school would accept, she understood personally how children with no voice of their own suffered injustice at the hands of a society that did not comprehend their plight.

This emboldened her to undertake a righteous crusade to render justice and dignity to the thousands of others like her son. She organized other parents and founded the Guild for Exceptional Children, an organization that today still works to help people reach their maximum potential and help families cope with the responsibility of caring for disabled family members at home. With the support of numerous elected and civic leaders in New York State, she lobbied exhaustively, and successfully, for legislation that guaranteed children with developmental disabilities the same right to an education as all other children, and to bring these human beings out of institutions and return them to the comfort of real homes, where they would be surrounded by those who could love and care for them.

Joining the ranks of our Nation's great reformers like Dorothea Dix, Mrs. DeFelippo's efforts to restore dignity to those, less able than we, cannot and will not be forgotten. Olga departed leaving behind her three children, Joseph, Vivienne, and Noel, and her two grandchildren Michael and Peter. However, while we mourn her loss, we as a Nation should smile proudly at her life and her deeds, for there is no greater credit to her accomplishments than having left this Nation and our world better than she had found it.

PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 15, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that this Congress is at long last attempting to address the looming crisis in our nation's pension system. The bad news is that the best available evidence suggests that today's optimistically entitled Pension Protection Act doesn't achieve its stated objective.

Pension rules are complex. But in my view, the goals of pension policy are really pretty