

TRIBUTE TO HOUSTON'S
ENTERPRISE CATERING SERVICE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding minority-owned business in my hometown of Columbia, SC, that has earned a reputation for excellence. Houston's Enterprise Catering Service is deservedly being honored by the Southeast Minority Business Development Agency with the Southeastern Regional Director's Award. This is the highest honor bestowed by the regional MBDA organization in recognition of a minority business's outstanding achievements.

Chef Frank Houston and his wife, Millie, are the power behind Houston's Enterprise Catering Service. Frank began cooking when he was a young boy growing up in Charleston, SC. His mother believed in the African-American tradition of teaching all children to cook. Young Frank soon became adept at preparing family favorites like shrimp and grits, homemade butter pound cake, fruitcake, and lima beans with rice.

Cooking was a passion that he learned early in life and was a skill he parlayed into a career. At age 16, he became a bus boy at the Francis Marion Hotel but quickly rose to become a waiter. Frank Houston's ambition and desire to learn everything about the restaurant business precipitated his climb through management and he ultimately became the dining room manager for the hotel.

Yet Frank knew his first love was in preparing food, and left his food service work to study culinary arts at Cornell University. After completing his studies, Frank used his background to launch a restaurant with partner Bob Funderburk. The two men successfully ran Funderburk Restaurant, but Frank knew he ultimately wanted to venture out on his own.

Starting his own catering company proved to be a challenge even for the successful entrepreneur. Frank moved to Columbia, and opened his own catering business in 1987. However, as the sole employee of the business, banks were wary of lending him start-up capital and he had to rely on his own financing. The first year was difficult. Houston's Catering sales reached only \$50,000, but he didn't give up.

Fate intervened when Frank met his wife, Millie, in 1994. She was completing her degree in hotel, restaurant and tourism management at the University of South Carolina. The combination of their talents led to the creation of Houston's Enterprise Catering Service with Frank serving as chef and Millie managing the operations. The Houstons still received no financial backing and struggled to build their business on word of mouth. Their attention to detail and exquisite execution of upscale menus drew a new customer base solely founded on the company's reputation. By 2001, sales reached nearly \$280,000, and Houston's counted among its clientele major corporations, community-based organizations, State agencies as well as private clients.

With the company's growing success, the Houstons believed they should continue to

build their business while giving back to the community that had supported them. As they began to hire new employees, they made a commitment to hire those who were disadvantaged and in need of work. They created a secretarial position for single mothers, hired disabled workers and mentored youth during the summer.

The business has been challenged by the opening of the Columbia Convention Center in 2004, which provides special event services for clients who are required to use their food service vendor. Today, Houston's Enterprise Catering Service has a new contract to provide service for the convention center that once was his competition. This new contract in partnership with the Ovations Company is projected to double the Houston's sales figures to exceed \$500,000 this fiscal year.

The company still remains committed to the community and giving back. Each year, Houston's contributes to AIDS benefits, the Oliver Gospel Mission, Harvest Hope Food Bank, and various women's shelters. They also participate in youth development programs like DARE, Buffalo Soldiers, and continue to mentor young people. The Houstons were instrumental in creating the "Chef & Child Program," an initiative of Midlands Chef Association. They have received numerous commendations for their community service including awards from the American Culinary Federation.

The Houstons are grounded by their faith, and Frank currently serves as an associate minister at St. Peter Baptist Church in Irmo, SC. The couple has received citations for their outstanding support of their church.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in commending Houston's Enterprise Catering Service for its extraordinary accomplishments and its recognition as the recipient of the MBDA's Southeastern Regional Director's Award. I know firsthand of the wonderful food and service the Houstons provide, and I cannot think of another couple more deserving of the rewards they are reaping after years of hard work and community service. They are truly an example of the American dream, and I applaud their tremendous accomplishments.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3062—SOUTH
PACIFIC ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ACT
OF 2007

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3062, the South Pacific Economic and Educational Development Act of 2007, and take this opportunity to highlight its value for the strengthening of United States diplomacy in Oceania.

I have the distinct privilege and honor of representing the people of Guam in this House. My constituents remain keenly aware and are especially appreciative of the United States foreign policy programs most relevant

and important to our neighboring islands in the greater Pacific Basin. Indeed, the provision of United States technical and financial assistance to Pacific Island states is cause for associated growth and development in, and international recognition of, the neighboring Pacific Island territories of the United States.

Our island territories, including Guam, the Northern Marianas, an American Samoa, together with the State of Hawaii, serve as logical bridges and links to our friends and allies in the greater Pacific Basin. Commerce, trade, communication, and transportation flow between and through our Pacific Island territories and the Pacific Island nation-states. Heads of state and government officials frequently convene in the Pacific Island territories for meetings and summits on issues of relevance and interest to the region and to the United States. H.R. 3062 is predicated in the historic relationship and responsibility the United States has developed with the Pacific Island nation-states.

The introduction and consideration of H.R. 3062 is timely in that it follows the eighth meeting of the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders, an organization that was founded in 1980 with the support of the East-West Center. The eighth meeting convened in Washington, D.C., this past May, and marked the first high-level gathering of Pacific Island political leaders in the Nation's capital in the Conference's history. Twenty separate heads of states and leaders from Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia, participated in that meeting, at which partnerships between the islands and the United States were renewed. A commitment to re-engage in the shared needs and interests of our countries was forged at this recent meeting.

H.R. 3062 would help fulfill a part of the United States commitment to re-engage in the Pacific Region. The bill would authorize the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide technical and other assistance to Pacific Island nation-states. The bill would also require the Department of State to take certain steps to ensure the participation of students from the Pacific Island nation-states in the distinguished and highly-recognized J. Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

I am confident that the provision of such assistance and the participation of Pacific Island students in the Fulbright Program will serve to strengthen United States-Pacific Island relations. H.R. 3062 would also serve to support the advancement of efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, especially in the areas of trade, tourism, the environment, education, and defense and security.

I commend our colleague from American Samoa, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment, for sponsoring this legislation and for his leadership in buttressing United States assistance in the greater Pacific Basin. I urge my colleagues' support for H.R. 3062.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 7

9 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine a report of the Government Accountability Office's assessment of 18 Iraq benchmarks, with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 immediately following the open session.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine confronting the terrorist threat to the Homeland, six years after 9/11.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine Iraq, focusing on the Crocker-Petraeus report.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine health care and the federal budget, focusing on op-

tions for achieving universal health coverage.

SD-608

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Iraq, focusing on the progress made by the Government of Iraq in meeting benchmarks.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 12

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 2017, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for national energy efficiency standards for general service incandescent lamps.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine enhancing the safety of toys relating to lead paint, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and toy safety standards.

SD-192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine regulatory preemption relating to federal agencies usurping congressional and state authority.

SD-226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert Charles Tapella, of Virginia, to be Public Printer for the Government Printing Office.

SR-301

SEPTEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing on the National Football League retirement system.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine information technology.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation by the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1377, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, S. 1433, to amend the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act to provide competitive status to certain Federal employees in the State of Alaska, S. 1608 and H.R. 815, bills to provide for the conveyance of certain land in Clark County, Nevada, for use by the Nevada National Guard, S. 1740, to amend the Act of February 22, 1889, and the Act of July 2, 1862, to provide for the management of public land trust funds in the State of North Dakota, S. 1802, to adjust the boundaries of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in the State of Idaho, S. 1803, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in the State of Idaho, S. 1939, to provide for the conveyance of certain land in the Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, and S. 1940, to reauthorize the Rio Puerco Watershed Management Program.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine Persian Gulf War research.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Paul J. Hutter, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562