

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it commemorates its 140th anniversary. The church will hold a celebration on Sunday, December 2 in Saginaw, Michigan.

In 1867 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ford, Mr. and Mrs. William Countee, Mrs. Martha Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. William Peterson, Mrs. Ellen Foote, Mrs. Ganns, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van-Dyke, Mrs. Martha Brown, Mrs. Debora Johnson, and Mr. William Augustus organized the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The first church services were held at the Ford home but as the congregation grew, the members looked to find a larger place to hold worship services. Over the next 10 years the congregation moved from place to place until in 1877 a building was purchased and renovated to give the church a permanent home. During the following years the congregation continued to grow, and the church relocated several times until it broke ground in October 1966 on the current sanctuary. After the church was dedicated in 1967, the congregation built a lounge, kitchen, fellowship hall, and classrooms. In 1978 construction on a conference room, mall, credit union, day care, communion room, mini chapel, and offices for the pastor and secretary was completed. The strength and influence of Bethel AME continued to grow, and a second center was opened at Crossings Apartment Complex in 1997.

Reverend P. David Saunders was assigned as pastor in June 1997. The church has active senior citizens and retirees programs, a missionary department and a youth department. The Bible study program attracts persons from throughout Saginaw County. Under Reverend Saunders's leadership the church is moving forward and looking to provide housing for the elderly and handicapped.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Bethel AME Church for 140 years of worship, prayer and service to the Saginaw community. The church's motto is "Love Conquers All" and the clergy, staff and congregation strive daily to live these words. May they continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ for many, many more years.

RECOGNIZING NORWALK, IOWA

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence of the education

system in Norwalk, Iowa and to specifically congratulate two outstanding teachers from the area who recently received awards in recognition of their important contributions.

Andy Mogie, the Norwalk High School family and consumer sciences teacher, was named Iowa Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Department of Education. He is one of the few male teachers in Iowa who teach family and consumer sciences, and has been doing so for 8 years. Norwalk High School Principal Dale Barnhill nominated Andy for his success in building the family and consumer science program into one of the highest enrolled curriculums in the school. Andy has incorporated the program of study in his classroom into his students' daily lives and motivates them by raising their expectations to the same professional expectations he has set for himself.

Jodie Irlmeier, the Norwalk seventh- and eighth-grade computer teacher, was awarded the Iowa Technology Educator of the Year award by the Iowa Technology and Education Connection. Jodie is currently in her eighth year teaching in Warren County. She is known as an exceptionally conscientious and caring teacher, as evidenced by her crediting her co-workers for her achievement. Jodie's team oriented mentality has produced optimum results for herself, her co-workers and most importantly, her students. Jodie's colleague, Sandi Lathrum recommended her for the award after seeing her develop a solid curriculum that has engaged her middle school students.

I consider it a great honor to represent Andy Mogie, Jodie Irlmeier and all of the teachers and staff of the Norwalk Community School System in the United States Congress. I wish Andy and Jodie the best and look forward to hearing more great stories about the positive impact they have as role models and educators for the children they serve.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE A. LEWIS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Leslie A. Lewis. Mr. Lewis is being honored at a testimonial banquet on Saturday, November 17, 2007, for the many contributions that he has made to the Masonic Family, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the city of Boston.

Mr. Lewis served our great Nation with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Air Force for 4 years before being honorably discharged in 1968. Since 1972, this great public servant has worked as a law enforcement official with the Trial Courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In conjunction with his numerous civic duties, Mr. Lewis has played an active and vital role with the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons. In 1991, he was elevated to the last

degree in Masonry and is the president of the Levi H. Morris Class. On December 11, 2005, Mr. Lewis was elected as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts.

Integrity, honor, and trustworthiness are but a few of the many illustrious words that have been used to describe the outstanding character of Leslie A. Lewis.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Lewis for his selfless community service and gracious contributions to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COMMENDING THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE ON BECOMING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 BEST PLACE TO WORK AWARD

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to comment the City of Port St. Lucie on becoming the recipient of the 2007 Best Place to Work Award. For five consecutive years, the City has earned the award from the St. Lucie County Human Resources Association, which has said that, the City of Port St. Lucie provides a top-notch work environment for city employees.

The award is given to local employers whose personnel practices are considered to be the best in the County. Employers are evaluated based on the number of employees, and with more than 1,100 workers, Port St. Lucie is considered a leader in establishing a professional working environment. Furthermore, the Best Place to Work Award Program is considered a model on how to get a community interested in workplace issues and practices.

By earning this award, the City of Port St. Lucie demonstrates its commitment to the community it serves. By bringing together exceptional personnel who are dedicated to serving the residents of the City, Port St. Lucie, is ensuring that its citizens are provided with quality services and proves that Port St. Lucie truly is a "treasure" nestled on Florida's coast.

I am honored to be able to recognize this exceptional city. I commend the City government of Port St. Lucie for their dedication to people of the City, and I wish the City success as it continues to work to serve its citizens.

STATIA AMERICA DAY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an often overlooked

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

chapter in American history. The tiny island of Sint (St.) Eustatius, known locally as "Statia", is a quiet and peaceful island with pristine coral reefs located in the Dutch Antilles, which is part of the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean. As the story goes, on November 16, 1776, the American Brigantine "Andrew Doria", under the command of Captain Isaiah Robinson sailed into the harbor of Statia—at the time a Dutch Colony—on a mission to obtain a cargo of munitions and military supplies. Nearing Fort Oranje, the Andrew Doria fired off a 13-gun salute. The cannons of Fort Oranje under the command of Governor Johannes de Graaff answered with an 11-gun volley. This volley is regarded as the first salute to an American flag on board an American warship in a foreign port. Or more simply put, the first recognition of America's newly declared independence from Great Britain by a foreign power.

It is unfortunate that down through the years the importance of St. Eustatius to the American Revolution has faded into relative obscurity. The truth, however, is that a good part of the weapons, ammunition and ordinary supplies needed by the Continental Army was imported via St. Eustatius. In addition, because of its geographic location and vibrant shipping industry, St. Eustatius provided the fastest and, more importantly, the safest connection between the Continental Congress and America's political supporters overseas. It has been said that Benjamin Franklin in particular was known for shipping his mail to Europe through St. Eustatius. And John Adams held the commercial connection between the fledgling United States and St. Eustatius is such high regard that it formed the foundation for his argument that the United States should enter into diplomatic relations with the Netherlands.

Regrettably, it was the impending American-Dutch commercial treaty that finally compelled the British to act against St. Eustatius. In February 1781, British Admiral George Rodney attacked and captured the island, sacking the storehouse and homes in the process. For a time after the island surrender the British continued to fly the Dutch flag; a ruse which successfully lured many American and other enemy ships into captivity. Despite their island being reduced to ruins the people of St. Eustatius never lost their love and affection for the people of America. And today, November 16th is a national holiday on the Island of Sint Eustatius known as Statia America Day. As St. Eustatius prepares to celebrate the 231st anniversary of the salute to the Andrew Doria, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and saluting the people of St. Eustatius and the important role their tiny island played in the fight to win our independence.

REGARDING DEAN AGUILLEN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to bid farewell to a member of the Hispanic family in the House of Representatives; Dean Aguillen of the Speaker's office is leaving the Hill this week, and he will be greatly missed by me and many other members of the House.

We labor together, we fight together, and we plot together . . . as a party, as a Caucus

. . . and we get close to the staff with whom we work.

Dean Aguillen is a San Antonio native and he has seen the House run by Republicans . . . and leaves us with the knowledge that a Democratic Majority is a better deal for the nation.

Dean has been a magnificent ambassador for Speaker PELOSI for the Texans and for the Hispanic Caucus. He is always available for us, always works to ensure our needs are met, and answers our questions fully and in a timely way.

Dean told me today that he was inspired to get into politics by his local member of Congress when he was a little kid. Henry B. Gonzalez, an icon of Texas politics, had a Saturday morning talk show that Dean never missed.

That molded his thinking and motivated him to find his way to Washington. He leaves this place as a much-loved staff member; and he leaves with many, many friends.

Dean, we'll miss you man. I know Speaker PELOSI will miss you. Thank you for all your work and your dedication over the years. Vaya con Dios.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES SLATER OF LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most outstanding individuals I have come to know in my 30 years in Congress, Dr. James Slater of Loma Linda University Medical Center, who pioneered the development of the proton beam cancer therapy.

When Loma Linda University Medical Center in my district recruited Dr. James Slater to develop a radiation oncology program in 1970, they gained a unique expert in the field of radiation therapy. Before he became a physician, Dr. Slater's main interest was physics. With a profound understanding of the way radiation works on the human body, Dr. Slater set out to find a way to gain more control of the process and reduce the toll this therapy takes on patients.

He became convinced after nearly 15 years of research that the best way to accomplish this was through proton beams, which had been tested in research laboratories but never developed as a permanent medical therapy. After meeting with scientists and physicians from around the world, Dr. Slater began looking for a partner to develop the technology for a proton-beam treatment center. When private industry declined to take the challenge, he turned to Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) near Chicago, which had been actively involved in research on the potential for medical technology. In 1986, the medical center and Fermilab—backed by the Department of Energy—agreed to build a proton-beam treatment center at Loma Linda.

One of the most marvelous experiences I've had as a member of Congress came in 1987, when Dr. Slater and his team came to my office to lay out the plan for a new way of treating cancer tumors. I was quickly convinced

that his idea was fabulous, and his ability to bring together the medical, technical and operational experts was superb. During a hearing before the House Energy Appropriations Subcommittee, my colleagues agreed. Many members had family or close friends who had been afflicted with cancer, and they were eager to help find a new treatment plan. Major funding was approved and the center opened in 1990.

Thanks to the dedication of the medical center and the support of Congress and Department of Energy, Dr. Slater's vision has become a reality in the past 20 years. More than 11,500 patients have received treatment for prostate cancer, brain tumors, and other forms of cancer. A research program is promising new ways to treat breast cancer early and possibly avoid mastectomies in many cases. Another program has helped the National Aeronautics and Space Administration research the effects of space radiation and design better equipment for astronauts. Since 2003, four more proton-beam treatment centers have opened in other areas of the country.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to tell my colleagues that Loma Linda University Medical Center has decided to honor this pioneering medical scientist by naming the proton beam treatment center in his honor. There is no doubt that this honor is richly deserved, and memorializes a true visionary and benefactor for thousands of cancer patients in the future. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Slater on receiving this honor, and thanking him for his dedication to opening new horizons in the fight against cancer.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DAVID A. HARTMAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant First Class David A. Hartman. Sergeant Hartman will be honored on December 1 by the Bay City United States Army Reserves. They will dedicate the Drill Hall at the Bay City Michigan Reserve Center in his memory.

David Hartman is remembered by his family and friends as loving, fair-minded, honest, fun-loving, family-oriented, and job-oriented. He worked hard, and was not afraid to step in and help out. He followed his father's example and signed up for the military when he graduated from high school. He was a 21-year veteran of the military. David served in the first Gulf War and came home with Gulf War Syndrome. He was eligible for a medical discharge but he decided to stay in the military to continue serving his country. Sergeant Hartman stated that he wanted to join the people going to fight and lead by example. On July 17, 2004, at the age of 41, David Hartman was asked to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country when the vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device in Bayji Iraq. Sergeant Hartman was serving in Iraq with the Army Reserves 401st Transportation Company from Battle Creek, MI. He is survived by his wife, Robbin, son, Benjamin, and daughter, Heather.

Madam Speaker, when Sergeant Hartman volunteered to put his life on the line for his country, it was with the hope that he would never be required to make that ultimate sacrifice. But it was God's will that his life be cut short on that road in Iraq. We as a Nation need to remember SFC David Hartman and all the brave individuals who have died for our freedom. I ask the House of Representatives to join me and keep their memory in our hearts and prayers.

COMMENDING THE EMPLOYEES OF
PORT ST. LUCIE'S FINANCE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the hardworking employees of the City of Port St. Lucie's Finance Department. For the 16th consecutive year, the city's Finance Department has been recognized for excellence and professionalism in the way they account for public money. The Government Finance Officers Association, a professional association of State and local finance officers in the United States and Canada, recognized the department with their Excellence Award because of the high quality of their 2006 comprehensive annual financial report.

The 16,000 member Government Finance Officer's Association said "the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." It is my honor to commend the city of Port St. Lucie's finance director, Marcia Dedert and her staff for their dedication in assuring that all public funds are accounted for and transparent to the residents of the city.

The Finance Department of Port St. Lucie has truly exemplified their own mission statement to accurately maintain the financial records of the city pursuant to all legal requirements and to safeguard the City's financial assets. After 16 consecutive years of winning such a prestigious award, Port St. Lucie has clearly established themselves as one of the leading finance departments in the Nation, and I am proud to have the opportunity to represent such an outstanding city.

THANKING DEAN AGUILLEN FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THIS CONGRESS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Dean Aguilén for the service he has provided to this Congress and the American people.

Dean's final day with us is today; however, I believe that a friendship and working relationship will continue for years to come.

During my first term in Congress, Dean was a great assistance to my office and me. He helped with the transition and acclimation from being a local county supervisor to Congress.

Dean has accomplished quite a bit in his career within the Capital, but I want to take time to thank him for the way in which he became successful.

Dean is an extremely hardworker and he does the multiple jobs and responsibilities with a smile, patience, respect, and understanding. He has taken care of all of the Democratic members, but I have also seen him take time to recruit and help young staff learn the ropes so they too can be successful.

Dean has made a great impact on many Members and staff.

I wish him the best of luck and know that success will continue to be a part of his life.

Thank you Dean for your patience, kindness, and commitment to this country and to our community.

THE ARAPAHO/ROOSEVELT NA-
TIONAL FORESTS LAND EX-
CHANGE ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that will help the Forest Service better manage an area near St. Mary's Glacier and Alice Township in Clear Creek County, Colorado and will also allow an appropriate new use of adjoining private lands.

The area dealt with in the bill is currently latticed with various mining claims interspersed with Forest Service land, which creates management difficulties. It is also an area proposed for a ski area terrain park, called Eclipse Snow Park. By facilitating a land exchange between the Forest Service and the developers of this terrain park, the bill would resolve issues for the Forest Service, the terrain park and the surrounding communities.

This legislation provides for the exchange of approximately 119 acres of National Forest System land with approximately 74 acres of private property (plus any necessary cash adjustment from private parties to the United States Treasury necessary to equalize the value of the parcels), contiguous to existing National Forest System land.

Currently, the boundary lines between the National Forest System land and the privately owned property are extremely irregular, making much of this mountainous land inaccessible and burdensome to the public. These jagged boundaries also make managing the National Forest System land difficult, if not impossible, for the agency.

This legislation simplifies the boundaries and consolidates National Forest System lands adjacent to Alice and the St. Mary's Glacier, in turn enhancing water quality protection opportunities for the St. Mary's Glacier watershed. In addition, this land exchange eliminates land-locked National Forest System lands and makes contiguous certain privately owned property, thus enabling efficient use of a decades old tradition of family-scaled commercial skiing in this basin.

In addition, the land exchange authorized by this bill would help provide access to the nearby James Peak Wilderness Area. Public access to this area from the Alice Township community is currently unavailable. Frequent trespassing, the lack of adequate parking and

no public access to the St. Mary's glacier area are major concerns for surrounding residents, the community, and the Forest Service. With the valley's close proximity to Denver, the presence and uniqueness of the glacier has become an attraction for hikers, backcountry skiers, and sight-seers. The frequency of visitors, especially during the summer, creates a parking, access, and trailhead sanitation dilemma. This land exchange provides a solution to these problems by providing needed parking areas and creating a public access trailhead, at no expense to taxpayers.

Although efforts have been made with the Forest Service to seek an administrative solution, the Forest Service estimates this process would take a minimum of 5 years—a delay that withholds the above-described benefits to the public. Therefore, legislation is needed to accomplish this important land exchange.

Commercial skiing has taken place in the Anchor Gulch basin, in which the current proposed Eclipse Snow Park is located, since the 1930s. That ski area has gone through many different names and ownership groups including Silver Mountain Resort, St. Mary's Ski Area, and Silver Lake Resort. It most recently operated in 1986 with two ski lifts. The ski area pre-dates major zoning concerns in the county, and operated almost exclusively on a collection of mining claims as well as illegally on some National Forest System land.

In 2001, the Clear Creek County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution recognizing the ski area at St. Mary's as a "legal non-conforming use" affirming the County's desire to see the property used for skiing again. In late 2006 and early 2007, through a process which included months of public hearings, the Clear Creek County Commissioners approved the rezoning of all the property in the Anchor Gulch basin proposed by Eclipse Snow Park to a "Commercial Outdoor Recreation" designation which allows for commercial skiing and limited associated recreation amenities.

Eclipse Snow Park aims to become a small family-owned and operated ski area which harkens back to the days when skiing began in Colorado. The Vision for Eclipse will provide a predominantly natural un-groomed more natural Alpine Skiing experience. With a specific focus on gladed skiing, as opposed to traditional cleared trails, Eclipse will provide a unique, environmentally sensitive and increasingly sought recreation experience. Additionally, the vision will create a small-scale, organic ski area which fulfills a "back-to-the-basics" response to why people love to ski, with fewer commercialized aspects that many large scale resorts implement. Eclipse Snow Park will welcome skiers and snowboarders alike who are interested in a unique skiing and riding experience, at a more affordable price, with a far shorter travel distance than most Front-Range skiers are currently experiencing.

Eclipse Snow Park representatives have been in numerous discussions with the Forest Service, who have expressed interest in this land exchange but citing resource constraints, have stated a preference for legislative action. The Forest Service on several occasions over the past two summer field seasons has sent interdisciplinary teams of biologists, botanists, and ecologists into the Anchor Gulch basin to inventory surrounding resources and evaluate the project proposal for potential environmental impacts and opportunities to apply state-of-the-art mitigating techniques.

Similarly, throughout the course of 2006 and 2007, Eclipse Snow Park has also been extensively reviewed by specialty contracting biologists, botanists, geotechnical engineers, wetlands scientists, hydrologists, and archeological investigators. Additionally, an in-depth assessment of ambient and projected vehicular traffic patterns has been completed by a professional traffic engineer. In summary, these studies conclude that the project will not create any significant impacts to surrounding resources and the community further demonstrating the public benefits of this exchange.

Under the bill, the Forest Service will determine the value of the lands to be exchanged, in accordance with the relevant normal appraisal standards, and will have authority to take appropriate steps to make sure the federal government—the taxpayers—will receive fully equal value for the lands to be transferred out of federal ownership. The private landowner—not the taxpayers—will bear the costs of the appraisals and all necessary surveys. And the legislation requires the private landowner to provide unimpeded access to St. Mary's Glacier, on the adjacent National Forest lands.

Madam Speaker, this is a modest but important bill and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

HONORING MR. ARAM BASSENIAN

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Aram Bassenian. Mr. Bassenian is a constituent from Laguna Beach, CA and is an outstanding citizen who is a shining example of the American Dream. He participates in many charitable and civic activities, including his active involvement with the Armenian EyeCare Project (AECF). The Armenian EyeCare Project, which does magnificent humanitarian work in Armenia, has honored Mr. Bassenian with the 2007 AECF "Lifetime Humanitarian Award".

The Armenian EyeCare Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of preventable blindness in Armenia. It was established in 1992 and sponsors programs in direct patient care; medical education and training; public education; and research.

Madam Speaker, Aram Bassenian is a man with a contagious passion for life and helping others. He is proud of his accomplishments, yet humble enough to be grateful for what he has. He is an ardent advocate for the Armenian community both in the United States and around the world. If his plate wasn't full enough already, Aram is one of the top architects in the United States.

I know Mr. Bassenian's wife Terez, daughter Taleene, and son Gregory are extremely proud of his accomplishments. He is a true inspiration to all Americans. He advises young people to "Focus, specialize, and do not be afraid of hard work. Work creates rhythm in one's life by establishing a health routine. For those who pay their dues, the opportunities that America provides are limitless."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Aram Bassenian today as the AECF Humanitarian of the Year. Thank you very much.

REGARDING OKLAHOMA'S STATEHOOD DAY AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November 16, 2007—Oklahoma's Statehood Day and Centennial Celebration. From east to west, north to south, Oklahoma boasts a variety of cultures, landscapes, and opportunities that Oklahomans and visitors enjoy every day. The diversity represented in the State has long been a source of pride for and attraction to Oklahoma. Many Native American tribes were relocated to Oklahoma under force, but have grown to be a vital source of pride and diversity for the State's heritage and future. Furthermore, the land-runs that began in 1889 showed our Nation the power and promise that the lands of Oklahoma held for its inhabitants in the early days as a territory. It was just a short while later, in 1907, that the Federal Government and the other States of the Union fully recognized this and made Oklahoma a State. Those same feelings still ring true today as we honor our State's centennial celebration.

As an Oklahoman, I share a heritage built on the values of faith, family, hard work, and personal responsibility. In Oklahoma, people are our greatest asset. There is warmth in our people that you won't find anywhere else. Throughout many years of hardship, our communities endured because of our "pioneer spirit." The same strength and spirit that enabled generations before me to survive the Great Depression and two world wars, is still alive today. For all of these reasons, I am happy to highlight the Centennial Celebration of Oklahoma.

MRS. JULIA AGNES WASHINGTON BOND

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to honor the life of Mrs. Julia Washington Bond, a gracious daughter of the South who contributed significantly to the cultural and academic life of metropolitan Atlanta. Mrs. Bond is perhaps best known today as the mother of Julian Bond, the Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), my former colleague in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and a stalwart advocate for civil rights and social justice in America.

For decades, Mrs. Bond helped form the center of cultural life in Atlanta. She was born in Nashville, Tennessee on June 20, 1908, and attended Fisk University, like her parents before her. There she met and eventually married a young instructor who would become one of the foremost educators of his time, Horace Mann Bond. Dr. Bond led several prominent institutions of higher education as their president—Fort Valley State College in Georgia and Lincoln University in Pennsyl-

vania, and served as the first dean at Dillard University. In 1957, he was named the Dean of the School of Education of Atlanta University, and he and his wife became pillars of the Atlanta community.

In the 1950's and 60's, African Americans, regardless of their prominence, could not stay in hotels or motels in the South. So, when they traveled to Atlanta, they had to stay in homes around the city. As the first lady of many universities and the wife of a leading educator, Mrs. Bond hosted some of the greatest artists and thinkers of the Harlem Renaissance—W.E.B. DuBois, Arna Bontemps, Langston Hughes, W.C. Handy, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Duke Ellington and a host of others. Her elegant style and manner offered a unique, intimate atmosphere for students and educators to engage these celebrities and help knit their bond to Atlanta society. She was kind almost to a fault, in the most genteel Southern tradition, and her beauty inspired an iconic painting by a principal artist of that period, Aaron Douglass.

In 1964, she returned to college and received a degree in library science from Atlanta University. During her tenure, she assisted hundreds and thousands of students. She worked in the university library system there until she retired in 2000. The people of the 5th District mourn the passing of Mrs. Julia Bond. She died at the age of 99 on November 2d. She raised three successful children—Jane Bond Moore, Horace Julian Bond, and James Bond. She also had eight grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

A TRIBUTE TO W. CODY ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize W. Cody Anderson, who has been a strong voice on the radio airwaves for decades. He holds the belief that everyone deserves to be heard, and he has worked hard to make that a reality for people from all walks of life.

He began his career in radio as vice president and general manager of WDAS radio in Philadelphia. He continued on to purchase and operate WHAT radio, and then started a public relations firm with his two sons. Mr. Anderson also worked with Dr. and Mrs. Walter Lomax to make 900 AM WURD radio accessible to the African American community in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. Anderson has also taken the time to travel to several prisons to speak with inmates who have been separated from their families and give them a chance to tell their stories. He is an extremely compassionate individual who has respect for everyone from the top celebrities and politicians to the everyday working man. He and his wife have taken this respect south to New Orleans to help Katrina victims, and across the ocean to Africa, where he was honored by being enstooled as a chief in Senegal.

W. Cody Anderson's friendly and engaging personality and his love of communication have made him one of the most sought after speakers in the Tri-State area and a constant

member of Philadelphia's Top Ten Most Influential African-Americans. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

CONGRATULATING STAFF AND
FACULTY OF INGLEMOOR HIGH
BEING AWARDED THE BLUE RIB-
BON AWARD

HON. JAY INSLIEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. INSLIEE. Madam Speaker, this week, I was honored in my D.C. office by a visit from hard-working faculty and teachers from the Northshore School District. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Inglemoor High School with the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award. Principal Vicki Sherwood led the school to this merit by ensuring that students had a high, consistent performance in reading and math.

Inglemoor has been successful in providing a range of educational programs to fit a variety of students' needs. From offering rigorous international curriculum to delivering educational services for students with special needs, the staff is willing to provide creative educational support.

I grew up in a family of educators where my father and four members of my immediate family were teachers. My son followed their footsteps and earned his teaching degree. As a parent, I know what it is like to seek for your kids the best education possible and this passion inspired my public service. It takes a great deal of commitment to provide a quality education. Let us today honor the staff and faculty of the Northshore School District and applaud them because reaching the Blue Ribbon-level of achievement is no easy task.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1429,
IMPROVING HEAD START FOR
SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1429. I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for producing a bipartisan product of high quality. For almost 40 years, Head Start has assisted low-income preschool children and their families, establishing a comprehensive early-learning environment and addressing a variety of social and medical needs. The program has provided services to over 20 million children and their families since its inception in 1965. Currently, over 900,000 children are enrolled in almost 2,600 local Head Start programs. Children with disabilities make up 10 percent of Head Start Children. However, less than 50 percent of eligible preschoolers are served by Head Start and 2 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are served in Early Head Start.

In my district, Head Start has been a tremendous success, with over 1,000 children enrolled in 18 programs. The majority of these children, about three-quarters, are from families with incomes below the Federal poverty line.

Head Start's comprehensive medical and social services provide important benefits to these children. In my central New Jersey district, 91 percent of Head Start children have received basic primary health care and 84 percent have a continuous, accessible source of dental care. The program has also provided mental health services to over 200 children

and assisted almost 150 children with disabilities.

Today's bill provides greater flexibility to serve children whose family income is just above the Federal poverty line, up to 130 percent of the poverty line, while ensuring that serving the neediest children remains the program's top priority.

The conference report authorizes total funding of \$7.99 billion for fiscal year 2010 allowing tens of thousands more children access to the program. This bill addresses a number of problems that have been identified. For example, the bill prioritizes expansion for Early Head Start, which serves children from birth to age 3, so more children can receive Head Start during the critical development years when their brains are growing the fastest. The conference report ensures more participation of homeless children by removing barriers to their enrollment. The bill enhances opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in Head Start programs.

I am also pleased to report that the bill continues to improve the already improving Head Start teacher qualifications. The bill increases teacher qualifications so that 50 percent of teachers nationwide must have a BA in early childhood education or a related field by 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the effects of Head Start in my district. Children in Head Start in my district are more likely to receive necessary medical services than other low-income children. They are nearly three times as likely as other low-income children to receive basic medical care and six times as likely to receive dental care. This bill will allow these benefits to be expanded and improved. I ask my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.