

HONORING WIL COOKSEY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of KENTUCKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wil Cooksey for his service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. Cooksey, a resident of Bowling Green, Kentucky, recently retired as plant manager of the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant.

Mr. Cooksey served as plant manager at the "Home of the Corvette" since 1993. The Bowling Green facility employs approximately 1,000 total employees and assembles 35,000 Chevrolet Corvettes and 4,000 Cadillac XLRs per year. Under Mr. Cooksey's leadership the Corvette team has earned more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997 including Motor Trend Car of the Year, JD Power Silver Plant Award, JD Power APEAL Award, and Car and Driver Top 10.

Mr. Cooksey has been a successful advocate for building diversity at the Bowling Green facility, recruiting qualified minority students from schools not used in the past. Mr. Cooksey has also been active on the Executive Advisory Board of Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering and 100 Black Men of America Inc. For his hard work, Mr. Cooksey was recently awarded the Civil Rights Humanitarian Award by the State Street Baptist Church.

Mr. Cooksey is also an active member of the Greenview Hospital board of directors, the boards of the National Corvette Museum, Tennessee State University, Western Kentucky University's College of Education and Behavioral Science, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Advisory Council.

It is my privilege to honor Wil Cooksey today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his service to the Bowling Green community. I wish Wil, and his wife Elizabeth, a happy and healthy retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from late January 29 through February 7, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to my daughter's heart surgery.

On January 29, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 27 and 28. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both votes.

On February 6, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 29 through 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

On February 7, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 32 through 42. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Nos. 32, 33, 36, 37, and 38, and "aye" on Nos. 34, 35, 39, 40, 41, and 42.

CONGRATULATING MR. JAY DELANEY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Jay Delaney, of Hughestown, Pennsylvania, who was selected as the 2008 "Man of the Year" by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Delaney is a lifelong resident of the Greater Pittston community and is a leader in business, civic, and government affairs. He presently serves as executive assistant to Pennsylvania State Senator Raphael Musto, a post he has held since 1994.

Mr. Delaney was associated with Wilson Foods Corporation from 1952 to 1994, retiring as regional sales manager for the northeastern United States covering eight States including Washington, DC. He was named manager of the year in 1987 after he earned a place in the "General's Club" of Wilson Foods in 1982. Also in 1987, he became president of the prestigious Wilson Foods Ring Club.

Mr. Delaney was mayor of Hughestown borough from 1982 to 1989. He served as a member of Hughestown borough council from 1969 to 1977. He was also chairman of the Hughestown Democratic organization for 4 years and successfully chaired the special election to the 11th Congressional District in 1980 on behalf of then State Representative Raphael Musto.

He is a member of the Blessed Sacrament Church, Hughestown; a former member of the Earth Conservancy Land Use Planning Committee; former member of the American Heart Association and former member of the Luzerne County Democratic Executive Committee. He has received national recognition by the American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital. He has served on the board of directors of the Harvey's Lake Yacht Club and is a charter member of the Nutty Buddy Club of Greater Pittston. He is a life member of the John F. Kennedy Council 372, Knights of Columbus and its Fourth Degree Assembly; the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick; life member of the Hughestown Hose Company; and a member of the Salvation Army advisory board.

Mr. Delaney and his wife, Dorothy, to whom he has been married for 51 years, are the parents of four children and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Delaney on this special occasion. Mr. Delaney's service to family and community is extraordinary and an inspiration to all. His selection for this honor reflects the respect with which he is held by his neighbors and peers.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S "THE OPPORTUNITY COMPACT," A BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC EQUALITY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional Urban Caucus, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League (NUL), and delegations from Urban League affiliates from around the country to Washington, DC for their 5th Annual Legislative Policy Conference on March 5-6, 2008. Over the course of these two days, the NUL unveils its annual landmark State of Black America report, meets with Congressional leaders, and brings a slate of key policy recommendations to members of both houses.

Established in 1910, the National Urban League is the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization devoted to empowering African Americans to thrive in the economic and social mainstream. Today, the National Urban League, headquartered in New York City, spearheads the non-partisan efforts of its 101 local affiliates in 36 states and the District of Columbia, providing direct services to more than 800,000 people annually, and impacting millions more through its advocacy and research.

This year the NUL and its affiliate delegates are bringing to Congress an important blueprint for economic equality known as The Opportunity Compact. The Compact is a comprehensive set of principles and policy recommendations set forth by the National Urban League (NUL) designed to empower all Americans to be full participants in the economic and social mainstream of this Nation. In pursuit of this end, the NUL (1) identifies principles that reflect the values inherent in the American dream; (2) examines the conditions that have separated a significant portion of the American population—particularly the poor and disadvantaged residents of urban communities—from accessing that dream; (3) proposes, for honest evaluation and discussion, several policy recommendations intended to bridge the gap between conceptualization and realization of the American dream.

The Opportunity Compact is the culmination of extensive research and policy analysis by the National Urban League Policy Institute (NULPI) and is based upon the input of dozens of policy experts from academia, public policy think tanks, non-profit service and advocacy organizations, the business sector, and the Urban League movement. Among other things, the NULPI hosted a series of five roundtable discussions and obtained feedback and recommendations from numerous experts concerning the development of a coherent and comprehensive plan for empowering the Nation's urban communities. As the foundation for such a plan, NUL has clearly identified four cornerstones that reflect the values represented by the American dream: (1) The Opportunity to Thrive (Children), (2) The Opportunity to Earn (Jobs), (3) The Opportunity to Own (Housing) and (4) The Opportunity to Prosper (Entrepreneurship). These cornerstones are supported by a list of ten policy priorities.