

HONORING STEPHEN GOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen Gott of Liberty, Missouri. Stephen is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Stephen has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Stephen has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Stephen Gott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ALAN WHEAT**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Alan Wheat, former Congressman who represented Missouri's 5th District from 1983 to 1994. Born to James Weldon and Emogene Wheat in San Antonio, Texas on October 16, 1951, Alan is one of three children.

Congressman Wheat made history by becoming one of the Nation's first African-Americans to represent a district with a white majority. Although it was suggested that he would only support African-American issues, one-third of Wheat's vote total in the primary came from white voters.

Throughout his career, Congressman Wheat earned the widely respected reputation of being a strong political leader and coalition builder. This well earned reputation led to him becoming the youngest member and only the third freshman Congressman in history to be appointed to the powerful Rules Committee. Dedicated to public service, Congressman Wheat ran for the U.S. Senate in 1994, won the Democratic primary and became the first minority candidate selected as a major party nominee for statewide office in Missouri. When Congressman Wheat made his bid for the Senate, he was described as "a new kind of black candidate: not simply a representative of black America but a bridge-builder between black and white America."

In 1995, Wheat became vice president of public policy and government relations for the CARE Foundation, an international relief and development organization, one of the largest of its kind in the Nation.

In 1998, Congressman Wheat formed Wheat Government Relations. With his unparalleled knowledge of the legislative process and his reputation for promoting bipartisan support, Wheat Government Relations has established him as a successful, bipartisan liai-

son between the government and the private sector.

Congressman Wheat holds a Bachelor of Arts from Grinnell College. He is married to Yolanda and has three children.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to induct Congressman Wheat into the Missouri Walk of Fame. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Congressman Alan Wheat for his commitment to the great state of Missouri.

RECOGNIZING THE BIRTHDAY OF
DR. CLAYTIE ODESSA SEARCY**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a great leader in the Dallas community: Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy. Dr. C. O. Searcy was Pastor Emeritus and Founder of "The House of Love Church." A native Texan, Dr. Searcy made history by becoming the first Black woman to receive a Masters degree from the University of Texas. She was the second person in the history of the university to complete a Masters program in only nine months.

Dr. Searcy first began community work at the Moorland Branch YMCA in Dallas, Texas. Concerned about the boys' moral and spiritual life, she secured bibles for the entire boy's division and recognizing the need to strengthen the "total family", she organized a mothers' club which provided funds to send underprivileged boys to camp each summer.

Dr. Searcy launched her community activities when she founded the C.O. Searcy Youth Foundation. The C.O. Searcy Foundation enabled Dr. Searcy to provide food, clothes, household merchandise and other much needed items to the families of her community. She offered the adults and youth extended GED courses in conjunction with the Dallas Independent School District.

In 1966, Dr. Searcy then organized The House of Love Church, where she served as Pastor Emeritus. As Pastor Emeritus of the House of Love Church, Dr. Searcy spent her life serving others. When asked what "life" means to her, her response was, "Life is about helping someone else see who he/she really is." Today, Madame Speaker, I would like to celebrate the full life of Dr. Claytie Odessa Searcy, on this the occasion of her birthday.

HONORING JOSEPH LANDERS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Landers III of Smithville, Missouri. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the

many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Landers III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AVISE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipient of the Iowa National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Federation's Community Service Award, Richard "Dick" Avise of Rockwell, Iowa for his longtime community service efforts.

For 48 years, Dick has volunteered his time to improving the Rockwell Community. Among many other accomplishments, Dick helped establish apartments for retirees, served as President and Secretary of the Rockwell Chamber of Commerce, grew and donated sweet corn for over a decade to the Rockwell Annual Chicken Barbecue, arranged the 1994 Ziedler Park Lion's Club Tree Project, and assisted the Cerro Gordo Extension Crop Clinics for 15 years. Dick's dedication to his community and his commitment to his organization should be commended.

A year after celebrating his 80th birthday, Dick continues his community service and remains active as the NARFE Chapter 170 Alzheimer Chair. I consider it an honor to represent Dick Avise in Congress, and I wish him the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING MRS. BILLIE JOHNSON'S
ADMISSION TO THE OHIO
WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to recognize the entry into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame of Billie Johnson of my District. Mrs. Johnson is a founder of the Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio. She has been a leader of elder and women's issues throughout her accomplished career.

Billie Johnson can claim many "firsts": she was the first African American elected Governor of Zonta International—District 5, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky; she was the first African American woman elected to the Board of Directors of National City Bank; she was appointed by former Governor James A. Rhodes to serve two terms on one of Ohio's first Women's Advisory Boards to recognize the achievements of women throughout the state and to improve opportunities and employment for women; she organized efforts to incorporate under Ohio law the first regional, non-profit office on aging in northwest Ohio; she launched the first SeniorNet Program in northwest Ohio—an affiliate of national

SeniorNet Inc—that helped older citizens learn how to use computers and navigate the internet; fostered the development of the first information and assistance programs in Lucas County for grandparents and other kin who are raising children; she established the first Elder Friendly Program for Toledo—affiliated with the national Elder Friendly Program—with the assistance of the former Toledo Mayor Jack Ford, to help improve services and accessibility for older citizens shopping in retail stores and local businesses; she fostered the creation of a Senior Safety program for older citizens; and she spearheaded the organization of the first campaign to get a Senior Citizens Tax Levy on the ballot in Lucas County to help increase meals for homebound elders, expand home care for the sick and frail elderly, provide more services of Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and expand services for senior centers.

Billie Johnson is widely regarded by her colleagues in the aging network. Her leadership fosters a spirit of cooperation, allegiance and loyalty which is rare. Evidence of her skill is the development of a master plan, in cooperation with many partners, for the re-use of the 42 acres of county-owned land surrounding the Area Office on Aging into a comprehensive, continuing care complex for older adults. As the Area Office on Aging's first and only Executive Director for three decades, Mrs. Johnson has helped in the creation and development of many senior centers, nutrition sites for seniors, transportation programs, health services, adult day care programs, home care, and numerous other services for older adults. She has been an advisor, consultant and speaker for numerous local, state, national and international organizations and agencies serving older persons including: Iowa Commission on Aging, Ohio Department of Aging, National Church Residences, National Council on Aging/NISH, National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Gerontology Program for the University of Toledo, and numerous Area Agencies on Aging located in Michigan, Ohio, Kansas and Iowa. She was even selected to participate in the United Nations World Conference on Women Forum in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. The International Federation on Aging later published excerpts of her white paper in a book entitled: "Global Aging."

More important than any professional achievement, Billie Johnson has carried forward the lessons learned at her grandmother's knee as she inspires and teaches her own daughter and granddaughters. She guides them in proud tradition and shows them by example how to be strong women in their own right.

I have counted on Billie Johnson's wise counsel throughout the years, as have many others in our region. She is a compassionate, caring, and dynamic woman, and a fine example to all as a Member of the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. I know I join with many across our state when I offer my warmest and heartfelt Congratulations!

IN HONOR OF DAVE PAVLICK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Dave Pavlick

for his dedication to social justice on the occasion of the completion of his second 600 mile walk throughout southeastern Ohio to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act.

In coordination with the Single Payer Action Network (SPAN), Dave is ending his twenty-three day walk for Healthcare Justice in Parma, Ohio. The purpose of the walk is to promote the Health Care for All Ohioans Act and to raise awareness of the plight of millions of Americans who are underinsured or without healthcare. Dave's walk across southeastern Ohio has garnered attention and support from people all over the State of Ohio and has raised our collective consciousness of one of the biggest issues facing Americans today. I, along with SPAN and the United Auto Workers Local 1005 join in welcoming Dave back to Parma at tonight's "Welcome Home Dave" celebration.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Dave Pavlick, and in recognition of his outstanding commitment to social justice and promoting healthcare for all Ohioans.

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

UNLESS U HAVE WALKED IN OUR SHOES

(By Brock DeAngelo)

My name is Brock, I am 13 years old. I will make a difference in a world that refuses to hear our voices. We deserve a voice. And that voice should be our own. We live in a nation that offers "Freedom of Speech." Not only should we be heard but we should be offered respect. Please join me in a mission that is all about U. Contact me at unllessuwalked@aol.com.

My name is Brock, Brock DeAngelo. For years I would have loved any last name but mine. Then one day I realized, it's not the name that makes a person; it's the person that makes the name.

I then decided I will change the vicious cycle behind my last name. The mental and physical abuse, the evilness and malicious lies stop with me.

I will show my brother and one day my children; that a man with great pride and integrity stands in front of the "DeAngelo" name. And it began with me, Brock!

The courts cursed me with a Guardian ad Litem. I can honestly say she never listened to a word I said. She was too busy trying to twist my situation around to suit her views. It was a little hard for her to accomplish since everytime we met the stories on my behalf were always the same. Funny thing about "the truth", it's consistent.

She was the first of many disappointments. Children's Services made me a promise that they never followed through with (no thanks to my ad Litem).

In the end, the person that does not deserve a title to fatherhood, saved his own reputation. He agreed to leave me alone. Unfortunately not every one is as lucky.

I am asking U to join me on my quest, to become a voice and to make what U have to say important.

I have discussed this matter with my attorney, met with a Special Assistant to Tim

Ryan and discussed this matter with Sandra Harwood, State Representative, 65th House District.

My goal is for Congress to not only hear us but to act upon our intelligence. In order for U to be recognized, we must fight together. U are old enough to know right from wrong. The courts need to listen. U are the future.

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

DECLARATION I

Congress shall allow no law that endangers a child's physical, emotional or physiological well-being.

DECLARATION II

Congress shall encourage all states to provide standardized legal representation of children and their specific issues in legal domestic disputes, regardless of state jurisdiction or residence.

DECLARATION III

A child shall be guaranteed an equal voice in determining court-ordered visitations with parents or guardians as well as the continuation of those visits.

DECLARATION IV

No child shall be forced to endure ongoing physical, emotional, or verbal harm by a parent, guardian or other individual.

DECLARATION V

No child shall be forced to return to the care of a parent or legal guardian who has been convicted of certain civil crimes or any felony, unless they themselves desire it.

DECLARATION VI

Accusations by a child concerning ongoing parental misconduct shall be investigated within twenty-four hours and taken seriously until otherwise proven false.

DECLARATION VII

The child physical, emotional and physiological well-being shall be of the utmost concern when determining their possible court testimony against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION VIII

A child shall have a voice in determining the need for restraining orders against a parent, guardian or other adult.

DECLARATION IX

Reports from doctors, physiologists, social workers and other professionals and paraprofessionals shall be given the highest priority when determining parental rights, visitations, and other issues concerning the emotional and physiological well-being of the child.

DECLARATION X

The rights of all other citizens shall be applied with equal conviction to all children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF RANDALL C. FERGUSON, JR.

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Randall C. Ferguson, Jr., an important resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Ferguson is to be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions