

IN CELEBRATION OF THE WORK
OF RONALD EUGENE KIRK

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor a dedicated member of my staff, Mr. Ronald Kirk, who has dedicated his life to government service. Born on November 2, 1944, in New York City to William Henry Kirk and Marjorie Smith Kirk, Ronald Eugene Kirk, the fourth of five children, was born and raised in Harlem and is a product of the New York City Public School system. Ron's passion for community involvement and neighborhood empowerment was evident from the start of his life. After receiving a bachelor's in business administration from Pace University and a master's in business management from Manhattan College, Ron began his lifelong involvement in community service.

Early on, Ron became politically active and cut his teeth with such community based organizations as the Community Planning Board #10 in Manhattan, the Community Corporation/Harlem Youth in Action, Model Cities and several political organizations established in the Harlem community. He was twice elected Democratic District Leader in the 70th Assembly District of New York. Ron served as foundation director of the City University of New York and as a confidential secretary to a New York Supreme Court Judge. During his time in New York, Ron received numerous accolades and commendations from such notable individuals as Representative CHARLIE RANGEL, former Mayor David Dinkins, Former New York Secretaries of State Basil Patterson and Percy Sutton. His efforts have been recognized by organizations such as the Sickle Cell Foundation, the Catholic Youth Organization, and the New York City Department for the Aging.

Upon moving to Atlanta, Ron served as a dedicated host for the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta, Georgia, and worked for the David Scott for Congress campaign in 2002. For the past 8 years he has served admirably as my senior Immigration/Department of State Specialist and Constituent Services Representative.

Ron is a dedicated family man, having been married to the lovely Emma for 38 years, has two beautiful children, Kwesi and Amina, and three wonderful grandsons, Nikai, James and Malachai. Ron is actively involved in community outreach and the Red Oak Methodist Church in Stockbridge, Georgia.

It is with a heavy heart that I and my staff say goodbye to Ron as he retires from my Congressional staff. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments Ron has made throughout his life and for his outstanding work in my office. As this chapter of Ron's life closes and he begins his new chapter, it is a blessing to know that Ron's ability to be a social catalyst touched the lives of many in the 13th District of Georgia and the Nation. Ron, I wish you every success for the future and thank you for your outstanding work effort, passion for change, and your ability to look at the impossible and ask, "why not?"

God bless Ron Kirk.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF MARVIN AND
MARY LOU COHRON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marvin and Mary Lou Cohron on the occasion of their 75th wedding anniversary. Their 75 years of marriage is a testament to all American families, and I am proud to honor the Cohrons.

Marvin and Mary Lou first met at Excel Junior High School in Monroe County, Alabama, around 1932. Both were the children of farming families and spent much of their free time going to church services and social functions. On a Sunday evening, December 23, 1934, Marvin drove Mary Lou and some of her family to the home of the Justice of the Peace where the two were married. Marvin was 16 and Mary Lou was 15.

After their marriage, Marvin and Mary Lou tried their hand at farming. After 3 years of marriage, Marvin had saved enough money from the sale of collard greens they had grown to buy Mary Lou a wedding band. Marvin moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1939 and started work at the Pensacola City Bus Company while Mary Lou continued working at Vanity Fair in Alabama until she was able to join her husband in Pensacola. In 1943, Marvin was drafted into the United States Navy where he served honorably in World War II. He then went to school on the G.I. Bill to learn refrigeration maintenance and repair. In 1950, Marvin began work at Navy Point stores before going into business for himself in 1958. He opened Cohron's Air Conditioning/Refrigeration Sales and Service and Mary Lou worked as the bookkeeper and secretary for the office. In 1986, the Cohrons retired. They now spend their days enjoying fishing, camping, and ballroom dancing. They belong to several seniors' dance clubs and Mary Lou belongs to the Red Hat Society.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the 75th wedding anniversary of Marvin and Mary Lou Cohron. Their family has been an invaluable part of our community for over seventy years. My wife Vicki and I wish Marvin and Mary Lou, their 5 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchild all the best.

HONORING JUDGE DRAYER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Calvin S. Drayer Jr. who is retiring after faithfully serving the people of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, as a Common Pleas Court Judge since 1998.

Before joining the Montgomery County Court, Judge Drayer had a distinguished legal career that spanned nearly 30 years. He was a founding partner in the Norristown-based firm of Wilson, Drayer, Morrow and Broderick where he concentrated on estates and trust law.

Despite his demanding career and heavy caseload, Judge Drayer has always been generous with his time and talent outside the courtroom. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estate Counsel and a member of both the Supreme Court Orphans' Court Procedural Rules Committee and the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission Advisory Committee on Descendents' Estates. Judge Drayer also was an organizer of the probate and Tax Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association and an adjunct professor in the graduate tax program at the Villanova University School of Law.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the outstanding service and extraordinary career of the Honorable Calvin S. Drayer Jr. and all who dedicate their careers to the pursuit of justice.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD HAYS ELLIS

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a truly remarkable Kentuckian, Floyd Hays Ellis. Over the course of his long and storied life as a farmer, soldier, businessman and state senator, Bowling Green's favorite son embodied the values of the "Greatest Generation" to which he belonged.

Generous in the extreme, Ellis was just as thoughtful a legislator as he was a friend and father. Known for his winning smile and wry sense of humor, he proved to be a canny businessman, as well. He served for 20 years as the president and CEO of the Warren Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., in addition to chairing the boards of Citizens First Bank, Trans Financial Bank Corp., Commonwealth Health Corp. and the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Though many people who enjoy his level of success often sacrifice their private lives for the sake of their profession, Floyd never put his work before family and friends. To the contrary, Floyd's natural sociability and devotion to his loved ones was perhaps his most remarkable trait.

Sadly, on Saturday, December 12, 2009, Floyd Hays Ellis passed away in the company of his long-time group of friends and confidants; and while Kentucky may never again see one of its finest sons, the evidence of his legacy will be visible in the countless lives that he touched.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE
ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF
WISCONSIN

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is sovereign government with a long and proud history of self-government. We are a federally recognized treaty tribe of the United States. We have faced threats and continue to face

threats to our homelands. The Oneida have persevered in the face of adversity for centuries, and we proudly and passionately continue to protect and preserve our homelands.

The Oneidas, along with the Mohawk, Seneca, Cayuga and Onondaga comprised the original Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy that dates back to the 1500s, which later became the Six Nations when the Tuscarora joined in the 1700s. The Iroquois held millions of acres of land in what is now the State of New York, which entered statehood in 1776.

During the Revolutionary War, the Oneida and the Tuscarora supported the colonies and served in General George Washington's army. For this service, our lands were to be protected forever, a promise reflected in the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua between the Oneida and United States.

The 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix was the first treaty between the Oneida and United States that established peace between the Iroquois Confederacy and the colonial states, which operated under the Articles of Confederation at the time. This treaty of peace established the government-to-government relationship between the Oneida Tribe and the United States that continues to exist today.

Through the 1785 Treaty of Fort Herkimer and the 1788 Treaty of Fort Schuyler with the State of New York, the Oneida lost more than 5 million acres of their ancestral homelands to the State of New York.

In 1789, the States ratified the United States Constitution, which declared treaties of the United States to be the law of the land. The United States adopted the Non-Intercourse Act of 1793, which prohibited the purchase of any Indian land by any person or entity without the Federal Government's approval.

In spite of the Non-Intercourse Act, the State of New York continued to enter into a series of land transactions between 1795 and 1846 with the Oneida in direct violation of Federal law. These land transactions continued to deplete the Oneida land holdings in New York until only 32 acres remained in Oneida possession by the 1820s.

During the 1820s, Oneidas relocated to what would become the State of Wisconsin to establish new homelands. The Oneidas purchased 5 million acres of land from the Winnebago and Menominee Tribes for the purpose of preserving sovereignty as a self-governing sovereign nation. This band of Oneidas became recognized as the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, who entered their final treaty with the United States in 1838, 10 years before Wisconsin entered statehood.

The Treaty of 1838 between the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and the United States established the present day Oneida Reservation boundaries located in northeast Wisconsin and comprised of 65,430 acres. To the present day, the Oneida Reservation has not been diminished or disestablished by an Act of Congress and our reservation boundaries as established by treaty continue to exist under the full force and effect of Federal law and the United States Constitution.

The Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 enacted by Congress was the next challenge of maintaining our homelands. Our lands were divided into individual parcels that resulted in a significant loss of tribal land ownership because our members did not understand the English language and did not understand land taxation.

Consequently, tribal land ownership was reduced to a few thousand acres within the Oneida Reservation boundaries.

The Dawes Allotment Act and the loss of tribal land ownership were ended when Congress passed the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, IRA. The Federal policy of the IRA was to recognize and strengthen the authority and autonomy of tribal governments, and implicit in the recognition of tribal authority is a tribe's right of self-government. The IRA provided the foundation for adopting a tribal constitution that would govern tribal members.

In 1936, the Oneida membership adopted the Oneida Constitution that established an elected governing body for the Oneida membership. Upon adoption of the Oneida Constitution, the United States Federal Government purchased 1,270 acres of land within the Oneida Reservation and placed that land into trust for the benefit of the Oneida Tribe.

Since passage of the IRA, the Oneida Tribe has taken the initiative to actively acquire ownership of land within the Oneida Reservation boundaries, and to provide for its membership through governmental programs and services that meet the needs of the people. More importantly, the Oneida Tribe has strengthened its authority by the adoption, implementation and enforcement of tribal laws. The Oneida Tribe preserves its sovereignty by exercising the inherent right of self-government over our lands and members within the Oneida Reservation boundaries.

Among the most significant of our continuing initiatives is the Oneida Land Claim and the resolution of that claim. The Oneida Land Claim is the oldest and largest land claim in the United States. Oneida has twice prevailed before the Federal courts, most recently in 1985 when the United States Supreme Court recognized the Oneida's rightful claim against the State of New York for its violations of Federal law more than 200 years ago.

The Oneida Tribe entered into treaties with the United States that are recognized as the law of the land under the United States Constitution. Federal law, United States Supreme Court decisions and Federal Indian policy recognize the treaty obligations of the Federal Government to the federally-recognized tribes of the United States. The Oneida treaties also established the government-to-government relationship between the Oneida Tribe and the United States, and form the basis for the Federal trust responsibility that is also recognized by Federal law, United States Supreme Court decisions and Federal Indian policy.

The Oneida Land Claim is deeply intertwined with the history of the United States. We have strived to resolve this claim through continued negotiation and mediation and will continue to do so as a means to protect and preserve our Tribal homelands. The Oneida will continue to act in an honorable manner to resolve the land claim that allows the United States, under the Federal trust responsibility owed to the Oneida Tribe by virtue of our treaties with the United States, to right the wrongs of the past that continue to exist today.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3326—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: Regional Counter-Drug Training Academy—Meridian

Project Amount: \$2,800,000

Account: Operating Forces Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense

Recipient and Address: MS National Guard, Naval Air Station, 219 Fuller Road, Meridian, Mississippi

Description of Request: The National Guard Bureau identified a Fiscal Year 2009 unfunded requirement of \$24.2M for Counterdrug (CD) Schools. With appropriate funding, CD schools will be better positioned to provide counter narcotics-based training programs critical to domestic law enforcement against narcoterrorism. The RCTA Meridian budget has shown little growth since FY2000, yet the costs associated with training law enforcement officers have increased by approximately 20 percent.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: On-Board Hybrid Power Unit (OBHPU)

Project Amount: \$1,040,000

Account: Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Army

Recipient and Address: Diversified Technology, 476 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS 39157

Description of Request: 2010 funding will ensure the completion of, field-testing, development, integration plan and a training program for the production version of the OBHPU 10 KW system. The Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) supports the OBHPU program to provide on-board electric power to deployed radar and missile systems, and is applicable in many other fields.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Project Name: Simulation Based Reliability and Safety (SimBRS) Program

Project Amount: \$4,900,000

Account: Army, Combat Vehicle and Automotive Advanced Technology

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 6301, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Description of Request: SimBRS engages in synergized research and development experimentally validated cradle-to-grave modeling and simulation capabilities to optimize reliability in vehicular components and systems with consideration of uncertainties in input loads, manufacturing, operations and maintenance, and material properties to decrease weight and cost, and yet increase the performance, durability, and safety of the warfighter. This initiative is a follow-on effort to ongoing Mississippi State University simulation based reliability systems research.