

As mayor, Koch often deviated from the conventional liberal line, strongly supporting the death penalty and taking a hard line on “quality of life” issues, such as giving police broader powers in dealing with the homeless and favoring (and signing) legislation banning the playing of radios on subways and buses. These positions prompted harsh criticism from many proponents of civil rights.

In 1984 Koch published his first memoir, *Mayor*, a best-seller that was turned into an Off-Broadway musical. In 1985, he won reelection on the Democratic and Independent tickets with 78% of the vote. In 1986, Mayor Koch surprised many by signing a lesbian and gay rights ordinance after backing his Health Department’s decision to shut down the city’s gay bathhouses in 1985 in response to the spread of AIDS.

In 1987, when the New York Giants won Super Bowl XXI, he refused to grant a permit for the team to hold their victory parade in the “Canyon of Heroes,” quipping, “If they want a parade, let them parade in front of the oil drums in Moonachie,” a town near the Meadowlands Sports Complex in New Jersey, where the Giants play.

In his third term, Koch suffered a stroke while in office, but continued with his duties. Koch became a controversial figure in the 1988 presidential campaign for criticizing Jesse Jackson for alleged anti-Semitism and stating that Jews would be “crazy” to vote for Jackson. In 1989, he ran for a fourth term as Mayor, but lost the Democratic primary to David Dinkins, who went on to defeat Rudy Giuliani in the general election.

In the years following his mayoralty, Koch became a partner in the law firm of Bryan Cave LLP and became a commentator on politics, movies and restaurants for newspapers, radio and television. He also became an adjunct professor at New York University (NYU) and a visiting professor at Brandeis University.

In 2008, Koch announced that he had secured a burial plot in the only graveyard in Manhattan accepting new burials, stating, “I don’t want to leave Manhattan, even when I’m gone. This is my home. The thought of having to go to New Jersey was so distressing to me.” On March 23, 2011, the New York City Council voted to rename the Queensboro Bridge as the “Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 88th birthday of Ed Koch, an independent thinker, an outstanding leader and the quintessential New Yorker.

COMMENDING DOUG CHRISTOPHER
UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
DISTRICT COUNCIL 16 OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the career of Doug Christopher who is retiring this month as Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of District Council 16 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) after 28 years of dedicated service to its members.

Doug has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area and has made great contributions to the strength of our middle class and the Bay Area economy. He has many achievements to be proud of and deserves our commendation and public recognition for his service and his leadership in his union and in his community.

Doug was elected as an Executive Board Member At-Large to the Glaziers Local 1621 in 1984. With his election to President in 1985, he established the union’s Defense Fund. Doug Christopher served the members of Local 1621 from 1997 to 1999 in various capacities and provided expert advice and leadership in advancing and defending the rights of working men and women.

Highly regarded in the labor community for his expertise and longstanding record of accomplishments, Doug was elected as Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for District Council 16 in 2007.

It is appropriate at this time to commend Doug Christopher on his outstanding record of union and civic leadership and extend our sincere best wishes for a rewarding and gratifying retirement.

America is strongest when its middle class and working men and women are strong, and Doug has every right to be proud of the work he has done to make our country strong.

HONORING JACQUES ALEXANDER
MARQUIS MATTHEWS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable 22-year-old young man from Shaw, Mississippi. Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews has answered the call of duty to his country and is currently serving as an active soldier in the Mississippi National Guard stationed in Afghanistan.

Specialist Matthews comes from a lineage filled with military servicemen and women. His paternal grandfather, Mr. William Carter, is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the United States Air Force; his maternal uncle, Mr. James Attaway, served in the United States Marines; and his mother, Ramona Matthews, had just enlisted in the United States Army when she learned she was pregnant with her first child, Jacques.

Specialist Matthews was raised in a single parent home by his mother, Ramona, along with his two younger brothers, Chauncey and Malik. Specialist Matthews understood the pain of his mother as she struggled to provide for them and the reproach of his grandparents, William and Alicestean Carter and Susie Matthews. As his mother’s oldest child, much was expected of him and he wanted to fulfill those expectations. But like many other young men, what appears to be quick and easy was tempting. And sometimes he was prey to those temptations. In fact he said and I quote, “my mother was more determined than me—for me to succeed. So, she snatched me from that wrong path and told me my life had three paths it could take and I had to choose one right then, college, military, or she was going

to commit a homicide and that’s all I needed to know. Needless to say, I chose the military.”

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Matthews has a litany of highlights during his military career including:

In 2008: Specialist Matthews enlisted in the Mississippi National Guard.

August 2008–October 2008: Specialist Matthews did his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

October 2008: Specialist Matthews completed his basic training. He was recognized during graduation for having scored a perfect 300 on the physical fitness portion of the training.

July 10, 2010–July 31, 2010: Specialist Matthews was a member of the 2089th Vertical Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion. He received the Army Achievement Medal for his Superior and Unflinching Support of his unit.

November 6, 2010: Specialist Matthews was honored with the Commanders Award for scoring 297 on the Annual Army Physical Fitness Test while he was a member of the 223rd Engineer Battalion.

November 7, 2010: Specialist Matthews while in the 168th Engineer Brigade received the Silver Castle Challenge Certificate of Achievement for having completed the Army Physical Fitness test with a score of 297. He was recognized for distinguishing himself by his excellent conditioning. He is truly to be commended for the accomplishment and deserving of the recognition for his sacrifice and self-discipline.

May 2011: Specialist Matthews was in the 2089th Vertical Construction Company when he was honored with the Army Meritorious Achievement Medal for his selfless service, loyalty and honor, dedication and integrity as an example for all to follow for his significant contribution to the success of his unit and the Mississippi Army National Guard.

October 2011–November 2011: Specialist Matthews received the Meritorious Service Award in recognition of his superior physical ability during the annual training while assigned to Detachment 1 of the 2089th Vertical Construction Company.

May 7, 2012: Specialist Matthews’ unit, the 2089th Vertical Construction Company, 223rd Engineer Battalion was activated to Afghanistan.

I want Specialist Matthews’ story to serve as one of encouragement to those who think there is no hope for change and to those who prejudice someone because of their circumstances. Specialist Matthews has expressed great interest in building an exciting career in the military answering the call at home and abroad whenever and wherever he is needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Specialist Jacques Alexander Marquis Matthews, from the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, now serving as a member of the Mississippi National Guard currently stationed in Afghanistan. As he so proudly represents the United States, I too am proud to represent him as a Member of Congress. I wish him a continued rewarding military career and a safe return home to the United States.