

and informed him that the skill of making tamales can assist in him becoming an entrepreneur.

Mr. Hicks was drafted into the military at the age of 21 and worked in the mess hall preparing and cooking for the officers and his fellow soldiers. His ability to cook afforded him the opportunity to stay state side and be shipped off to Vietnam. After his military service he went back to work at Liberty Super Market, and at the federal building before opening his own grocery store. He opened Hicks' Superette in 1973, on 109-5th Street at the age of 26 with \$52 dollars where he sold groceries and his tamales.

Business was booming and people from all over the world came to eat his tamales. Customers liked his tamales and the word spread that he had the best tamales in the Mississippi Delta and they would request orders to be shipped to them in various parts of the United States and foreign countries.

"The mid-90s were really tough," Hicks said. However, he had to close down Hicks' Superette. In 2000 because of high crime and drug usage in that area of down town, people began to move out.

Mr. Hicks moved and opened a restaurant/banquet hall, called Hicks' World Famous Hot Tamales & More on 305 South State Street. He has independently own his business for 41 years now. Hicks is one of the oldest independent black business in Clarksdale.

Mr. Hicks is amazed that these years his business still attracts people from all over the world.

So, what is the secret to Mr. Hick's success? It is the shucks he uses to wrap the tamales in before cooking. Many people use wax paper which is cheaper. It's kind of expensive the way he does it, but it is the way he was taught 50 years ago and it has paid off. He does not believe in cutting comers like most people may.

His wife, Betty, of 44 years has worked in the business for the last 11 years after retiring from the Clarksdale Public School System. She said, "Eugene has recently contemplated retirement."

Mr. Hicks stated that his career has been a blessed one, because he has had a chance to meet a lot of people due to his tamales. Mr. Hicks lives by the motto of: "What you do—do it well."

Mr. Hicks and his wife are the proud parents of 3 children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing entrepreneur for his dedication and service to his profession.

IN HONOR OF CLARENCE D.
BROCKLEBANK, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join with the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in Oceanport, New Jersey in recognizing Clarence D. "Buddy" Brocklebank for his 50 years of continuous, active service to the company. Mr. Brocklebank's outstanding record will be honored at the fire company's 37th Annual "Old Timer's Night" on October 20, 2014.

As the only member to accomplish this record in the company's 98 year history, Mr.

Brocklebank's achievement is truly commendable. At 80 years of age, Mr. Brocklebank continues to maintain active duty at the fire company, fulfilling the Emergency Services Volunteer Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) requirement to make 50 percent of the company fire calls, meetings and borough functions listed in the program. Mr. Brocklebank has served as Captain, Chief, President and Trustee of the company, and became a life member in 1989.

In addition to his service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1, Mr. Brocklebank also joined the Oceanport, Monmouth County and State Relief and Exempt Fireman's Association, the Oceanport Ex-Chiefs Association, the Port-Au-Peck Benevolent Association and the Oceanport Fire Police Unit. He is also a life member of the New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

Mr. Brocklebank was born on July 14, 1934 and has been a resident of Oceanport since 1964, joining the Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1 in April of the same year. He and his wife, Patricia, are the parents of Donald, Jr. and Matt and grandparents of 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Clarence D. Brocklebank, Sr. for his 50 years of continuous, active service to Port-Au-Peck Chemical Hose Company No. 1. His remarkable dedication and duty to his community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY'S
PLAYGROUND

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2014 a community in my district teamed up to show that together we can overcome heartbreak.

Over 100 volunteers, local businesses and community leaders worked to complete Bobby's Playground—a new park area at the Lower Bucks Family YMCA's Holland Campground. The playground is named in honor of Robert Edward Osterhout IV of Holland who tragically passed away at just 14 months.

The project, a Kaboom Playground, was completed by the hands of volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to remember the life of Bobby and ensure that generations of kids to come would have a safe place to play, laugh and learn.

It was a pleasure to participate in the event and offer a few words about the amazing work being done in my district by those I represent.

While Bobby's passing is a tragedy, the completion of this playground serves both as a reminder of his memory and a point of community pride.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF HIS EXCELLENCY NGUYEN QUOC CUONG, AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, His Excellency Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States. Ambassador Cuong is more than a friend. He is my brother and, for historical purposes, I wish to pay tribute to him as he completes his term in the United States and returns to Vietnam.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was appointed by President Nguyen Minh Triet as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States of America in early 2011. He has been accredited to the title of Senior Ambassador—the highest rank for a Vietnamese career diplomat. He presented his Credentials to President Barack Obama in July 2011.

From 2008 to 2011, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of relations of Vietnam with European countries. He was also the chief negotiator in charge of relations between Vietnam and the Vatican.

From 2007 to 2008, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was Director-General, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was later appointed as the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From 2005 to 2007, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong served as Deputy Director-General, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation, Head of Political and Security Section of the APEC Vietnam Secretariat when Vietnam was host of APEC in 2006.

From 1981 to 2005, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was an officer at the China Department and researcher at the Institute of International Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this time, he also served in the Vietnam People's Army from 1983 to 1985.

During his 30 year career, Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong was posted twice to Vietnam's missions abroad, as Minister Counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Vietnam in Ottawa, Canada from 2002 to 2005 and as Second Secretary at the Embassy of Vietnam in Beijing, the People's Republic of China from 1990 to 1993.

Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong graduated from the University of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam (1976–1981) and earned an MA in International Relations at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA (1996–1997). Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong also conducted studies on public administration at the Maxwell School of Public Administration, Syracuse University in 1998. He also participated in the Vietnam Executive Leadership Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in 2009.

On November 7, 2014, the U.S. Department of State honored Ambassador Nguyen Quoc Cuong by hosting a farewell reception for him