

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HARRELL FLETCHER

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing of an exemplary citizen of California's Central Coast: Mr. Harrell Fletcher.

Mr. Fletcher lived in the Santa Maria Valley for 80 years, moving to the area from Arkansas as a young boy. He attended San Luis Obispo High School and California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. He moved to Santa Maria with the architecture firm responsible for building Camp Cook, now Vandenberg Air Force Base, in the early 1940's.

Over his decades in the Santa Maria Valley, he seemed to fill every role in the community at one time or another: local business owner, County Supervisor, school board member, founding member of the Los Padres National Bank, Fair board member and Coastal Commission member. He was the most senior land use consultant in the region and was the longest serving member of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Fletcher also served on literally dozens of other groups, organizations and committees over the years, with each organization benefiting from his strong work ethic and unique insight into our community.

Mr. Fletcher and his wife Betty have been acknowledged frequently for their pivotal role in the growth of Santa Maria Valley community. In March 2004, the City of Santa Maria, in honor of Harrell and Betty Fletcher, dedicated "Fletcher Park" on their behalf. In 2009, the City Council declared July 24, 2009 as "Harrell Fletcher Day."

On a personal note, Mr. Fletcher always extended a gracious hand when working with both me and my late husband U.S. Rep. Walter Capps on a range of issues. We may have been of different political parties but that did not matter to Mr. Fletcher. He was always generous and affable, and always interested in addressing the issues to make life better for Santa Marians. Like my late husband, I considered it an distinct honor and privilege to work with someone so dedicated to his community, and who influenced so much of its growth for so many years.

Harrell Fletcher is survived by his wonderful wife of almost 60 years, Betty, and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. I thank them for sharing Harrell and his many talents with us these many years and offer my deepest condolences on their loss.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL
FLORIDA

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the University of Central Florida on their historic victory over the Georgia Bulldogs on December 31, 2010 in the Liberty Bowl. The Knights edged out the Bulldogs 10-6 in a fantastic game that demonstrated what this young athletic program has to offer to the world of collegiate sports.

This was UCF's first bowl game victory capping off an astonishing year of being ranked for the first time in school history in the top 25 of the AP Poll, USA Today Coaches Poll, Harris Poll and finishing their season at number 25 in the BCS Standings. These achievements are a testament to the determination and strength of the young people that this university is turning out as the future leaders in our community and country.

As the second largest university in the Nation, and my district's flagship university, UCF has been breaking barriers and earning its place at the top of every measure of student achievement, and this year was no exception. I offer my warmest congratulations to the players of this championship team, Coach O'Leary and the entire Administrative staff for all their determination and hard work.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
NORMAN EDDY AND THE LATE
REVEREND MARGARET EDDY
FOR THEIR DECADES OF DEDICATED AND FAITHFUL SERVICE
TO THE EAST HARLEM COMMUNITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Norman Eddy and his late wife, the Reverend Margaret Eddy. Norman and Margaret Eddy devoted themselves to the Manhattan community of East Harlem, one of the most underserved and impoverished communities in our Nation. Graduates of the Union Theological Seminary, they went on to minister to congregations at the East Harlem Protestant Parish and The Church of the Resurrection, helping countless individuals and families better their lives.

At the end of February, the decades of service to others by Norman and Margaret Eddy were recognized at twin celebrations held at the New York Theological Seminary and at The Church of the Resurrection. Celebrants learned about the effort to launch a Program Center for Spiritual Coordination and Commu-

nity Well-Being at the New York Theological Seminary, viewed the premiere showing of a film about their East Harlem ministries directed by the award-winning producer/director Jan Albert, shared heart-warming and sometime light-hearted reminiscences about Norman and Margaret, and celebrated Norm's 90th Birthday over a communal meal at the Church.

The celebrations are richly deserved, because the devotion of Norman and Margaret Eddy to the well-being of East Harlem residents is truly remarkable. I came to know them during the nine years I served as the New York City Council Member representing a district that included all of East Harlem. As ministers of the East Harlem Protestant Parish on East 100th Street and later of The Church of the Resurrection on East 1051st Street, they were involved in a myriad of community organizations that formed a vital network in "El Barrio." These included but were not limited to the East Harlem School of Faith, East Harlem Healing Community, the East Harlem Churches, the Community Urban Center, and East Harlem School of Faith, and East Harlem Interfaith. They also led a local neighborhood committee to help those who became addicted to narcotics. Each was an open, friendly, and vital presence who readily warmed to others and infected others with their laughter and positive spirits. When Norman and Peg Eddy ministered to others in need, no matter how dire their circumstances, they always maintained a sense of joy and optimism that proved infectious. With courage and compassion, they reached out to those suffering from HIV and AIDS at a time when misinformation and a lack of public awareness created an impenetrable stigma around those infected with the virus.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the well-being of the people they served and their extraordinary the civic life of our Nation's greatest city, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Reverends Norman and Margaret Eddy.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on clause 7 of House Rule XII, which requires that Members submit a statement citing the constitutional authority for any bill introduced in the House of Representatives. Every member of this body takes an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Therefore, this new rule adds nothing to the responsibilities we have already pledged to undertake. It does, however, add to the costs of government. Publishing each statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will cost the taxpayers an estimated \$570,000 each year for supplies, labor and delivery.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Furthermore, this requirement is a solution in search of a problem. According to the Congressional Research Service, only about two hundred and twenty acts of Congress have been held unconstitutional by the Supreme Court since 1789. In the past ten years, the Court has struck down laws a mere seventeen times. The number of acts courts have upheld is surely in the thousands. So I ask, what is the Constitutional crisis this requirement addresses?

The rule itself demonstrates the lack of urgency here. It requires a perfunctory statement without explanation. Committees need not consider the statement, no Member will ever vote on it, and Senate bills can be considered without one. By omitting any teeth, the rule clearly indicates that Members are already capable of ensuring that bills comply with the Constitution. In the rare instance we go too far, the courts are perfectly capable of correcting us.

Sometimes, the Constitution itself must be corrected. For example, the original Constitution expressly allowed for slavery and counted slaves as three-fifths of a person. Certainly, I would not be here to make this statement if no one had challenged those provisions. Without the Fourteenth Amendment, the Constitution would not guarantee the rights to due process and equal protection that are now fundamental principles throughout American life. For over one hundred years, until 1920, it failed to ensure that women had a right to vote. Imagine a country in which only white, land-owning men could vote—that is the world we would live in if we were bound by the words of the Constitution as written.

Finally, while we respect the Constitution's limits on governmental action, we must remember that the framers purposely created a living document and intended it to grow and change with the country. The Constitution is a work in progress and what we do in Congress can help push it forward. Clauses we cite now may not exist or may be understood differently in the future. Pretending otherwise through empty (and costly) formalities does a disservice to its spirit and the causes of freedom and justice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHERINE C. KELLY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, Katherine C. Kelly, a lifelong champion of human rights and universal health care, who died on the morning of January 6, 2011 at the age of 86.

Katherine was a good friend and supporter for more than 40 years. Over the course of her life, she and her late husband, Edward M. Kelly, were prominently active in the civil rights movement, the fight for women's rights, gay rights, and every progressive movement in the United States. Katherine dedicated her life to the Democratic Party, serving as State Committeewoman from Palm Beach County for 26 years.

Additionally, she was named to the Electoral College and served as a delegate to five Democratic National Conventions.

She also served as the Legislative Director for Florida NOW, as Vice President of the Florida Women's Political Caucus, as a Board member for NARAL, and as Development Director of Women Leaders Online. Her continued dedication to political and progressive causes led to recognition as the Outstanding Feminist 2001 by Florida NOW and Woman of the Year in 2008 by the Democratic Women's Club Palm Beach County.

Mr. Speaker, Katherine was deeply loved and widely respected by everyone who knew her. Today, our nation has lost someone who represented all that is good in the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PANPAPHIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America for its tremendous contributions to our cultural and civic life. Founded more than two decades ago by Hellenic Cypriot Americans of Paphian ancestry, the Association has carried out its vital educational, cultural, charitable, and humanitarian mission while helping promote peace, unity, and understanding on the occupied island of Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association of America held the Ninth Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit dinner-dance last month. The Evagoras Pallikarides Award of Merit was bestowed upon Mr. Alkinoos Ioannidis for his dedication to promoting Hellenic culture through music and song. Born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, Mr. Ioannidis studied classical guitar at the European Conservatory, moved to Athens, and was signed by Universal Music at age 23. He went on to pursue a successful career in acting and music, eventually focusing his efforts as a thriving musical performer and composer with many successful recordings. Influenced by traditional Cypriot music, the Greek composers of the last decades, and classical, jazz and rock genres. He often performs with orchestras and ensembles. Above all, he remains devoted to the Cypriot people, their culture, and their struggle for justice, donating his time and talent to numerous concerts and performances benefitting various Hellenic organizations and causes associated with justice for Cyprus.

The PanPaphian Association awarded the Distinguished Fellow Cypriot Award to Mr. Polys Kyriacou, a distinguished poet and lyricist who has distinguished himself in his passionate commitment to justice for Cyprus and his love for Hellenic culture. Born in Nicosia, he served in the Cyprus National Guard before his studies at Pantios University in Athens. He came to New York City in 1982 to earn a Master's Degree in Communication and Graphic Design at the Pratt Institute and then worked as an Art Director at the Proini daily newspaper. He served for many years on the board of the Cyprus Federation of America and the Justice for Cyprus Committee, published two volumes of poetry, including *Sximata*, which won First Prize for a Young Poet from the Cyprus Ministry of Education. A

Member of the Board of Directors of Cosmos FM Radio, he hosts his own program every Sunday morning and remains deeply involved in New York City's vibrant Hellenic community.

The Member of the Year Award was given to Mr. George Kouspos. Born and raised in Paphos on Cyprus, he came to the United States in 1984 after serving as an officer in the Cyprus National Guard. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the City College of New York and an M.B.A. degree from Adelphi University while working his way through school. He became a principal at CY Electric Corp. Throughout his studies and his subsequent professional success, he has remained extraordinarily devoted to the cause of justice for Cyprus; to the PanPaphian Association, which he has served as Vice President, Cultural Officer, and Treasurer; and above all to his beloved family, Nancy (Nafsika), who was born in Asgata, Cyprus, and his beautiful daughters, Demetra and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in paying tribute to the PanPaphian Association of America, the recipients of its awards, and all its many contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY SUZANNE WAUGHTEL HOPPER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, today I will be traveling back to Ohio to express my sympathy to the family of Clark County Sheriff's Deputy Suzanne Waughtel Hopper. Deputy Hopper's funeral will be at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, January 7, 2011.

Deputy Hopper was killed in the line of duty on New Year's Day while responding to shots fired in a local community. Because of her decisive action, courage and bravery lives were saved. She is a true American hero.

IMAN ABBASI

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, on January 9, Iraqi authorities will deport the Abbasi family to Iran where they face certain persecution.

The Abbasis are political refugees. Their father got in trouble in Iran because he dared to write that Iranians actually deserve freedom. He wrote that every man should be able to have a say in who governs them. This simple idea is the very foundation on which our great Nation was built and the fundamental, universal human right of all mankind. But the tiny tyrant of Iran did not like that. He saw Mr. Abbasi as a threat to his power.

The regime, having tasted power, is doing whatever it can to keep it. That includes imprisoning, torturing, and murdering anyone who so dares speak against it. But these are desperate actions from a desperate regime.

When a regime loses respect for its own people, its days are numbered.

As he has done with thousands of other Iranian freedom fighters, Ahmadinejad came after Mr. Abbasi. So Mr. Abbasi fled to Sweden. But when he did, Iranian authorities started going after his family still in Iran. So they fled too, but could only get to Iraq before being imprisoned by Iraqi authorities for not having their immigration papers. Now the Iraqi government wants to deport his daughter, Iman Abbasi, back to Iran, which is all but a death sentence for her. I talked to the State Department about Iman today and they are working on making sure that Iman is allowed to remain in Iraq until they can sort out her refugee status.

We have seen enough of Iraqi authorities doing favors for its neighbor to the East. At Camp Ashraf, a camp in the middle of the Iraqi desert full of freedom fighters from Iran, Iraqis and their Iranian buddies psychologically torture the residents. They put up dozens of loudspeakers surrounding the camp and shout at residents around the clock, telling them to go home to their motherland and stop being traitors.

We must send a clear message to Iraq: as long as it is ruled by the tiny tyrant and his henchmen, Iran is not a friend you can trust. If you side with them, then you side with oppression and tyranny. So stop imprisoning political refugees and stand up for the freedom that so many of our countrymen and yours have given their lives for.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIVISM OF
MS. YOLANDA DE VENANZI IN
RAISING HIV/AIDS AWARENESS
AND EDUCATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Yolanda De Venanzi and her efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness and education within the Hispanic community in South Florida.

Yolanda De Venanzi is an outreach worker with the Comprehensive AIDS Program of Palm Beach County, working within the Hispanic community to help promote HIV/AIDS awareness, testing, and prevention. Among her many activities, she organizes discussion groups and distributes literature throughout the County. Her efforts indeed reach far and wide, including barbershops, the El Sol migrant labor center in Jupiter, and the Caridad Center in Boynton Beach, which provides health services to Hispanic farm workers.

Furthermore, Yolanda also trains volunteers to spread information about HIV/AIDS prevention. One of her ideas that has proven extremely successful is recruiting drivers who work for the Golden Cab Company to distribute packets containing condoms and brochures about the disease. As with all volunteers, they are trained to discuss and promote behavior that helps prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. This creative approach is truly a stroke of genius.

A native of Venezuela, Yolanda has had a varied career, working as a psychology teacher and a mental health counselor. This experi-

ence has no doubt benefitted her in her work with the Comprehensive AIDS Program. In addition, she still teaches online classes in stress reduction and coping for Empire State College.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. De Venanzi's compassion, concern, devotion, and brilliance are to be lauded. Moreover, her efforts represent the kind of community activism that is key to addressing the serious public health challenge that is HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 8, I was unavoidably detained due to celebration of the Greek Orthodox Epiphany. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF PETER
PAPANICOLAOU

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Panayiotis (Peter) Papanicolaou, the distinguished President of the Cyprus Federation of America. Last month, Mr. Papanicolaou was being honored by the Asgata Association at its annual Dinner at Towers on the Green in Floral Park, New York.

Peter Papanicolaou was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus, where he received his primary and secondary education. Following two years of service with the National Guard of Cyprus, he came to the United States to pursue a higher education. He attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), enrolling in a special program for honors students. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science degree in Construction Engineering and Construction Management.

He launched his business career with a research position at NJIT, where he developed new technology for industrial sites and military bases for the cleanup of soils contaminated by toxins. He is now a principal of J.F. Contracting, a Brooklyn-based construction and engineering firm. He is professionally affiliated with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and he is a member of the Civil Engineering Honor Society.

Peter Papanicolaou is the Supreme President of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization for all Cypriot Americans. He is also president of the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Youth Choir, a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, and a member of the Advisory Board of Queens College, the Saint Basil's Academy, the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT, and the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a member of the board of the Cyprus—U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President of the Cyprus Children's Fund.

Peter is widely recognized as a leader with significant civic and humanitarian achievements. In 1995 he was named Businessman of the Year, Borough of Bronx and in 1996 he was presented with the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his contributions to our national identity while preserving the distinct values and heritage of our ancestors. In 1998 he became an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an honor conferred upon individuals for their services and dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church. He is a member of Leadership 100 and a founding member of the Faith Endowment of Orthodoxy. Peter was honored by various Greek American organizations, churches and professional associations.

Peter continues to serve tirelessly various causes of the Greek American community. He resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Nasia. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Elena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise and join me in honoring Mr. Panayiotis "Peter" Papanicolaou, a great New Yorker and a great American who has made outstanding contributions to the civic life of our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning, Thursday, January 6, 2011, I was unable to record my presence on the Floor of the House at the quorum call, rollcall No. 7, because I was unavoidably detained in a meeting related to my role on the House Armed Services Committee.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTO ALOMAR

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest players in the history of baseball, Roberto Alomar. This week, Alomar was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, a recognition for the many years he played the sport at its very highest level.

To many, being a 12-time All-Star, a 10-time Gold Glove recipient and a four-time Silver Slugger and batting over .300 nine times would suffice, but for Roberto Alomar, these were simply milestones along his route to the Hall of Fame. Induction into the Hall of Fame is a time-honored tradition in America reserved only for the game changers. It is not merely that these men played the sport with superior skill, it is that they so often transformed the game and our conception of what is possible. Roberto Alomar revolutionized the position of second baseman. He combined offensive power and consistency with a range and fielding ability few had ever seen and fewer still have been able to emulate.

Roberto is part of a Puerto Rican baseball dynasty that deserves recognition, too. His father and brother, Sandy Alomar and Sandy Alomar Jr. had distinguished careers in Major

League Baseball. They must realize that their guidance and support helped guide Roberto to his great career and that they, too, deserve recognition as he is inducted into baseball's most elite and hallowed club.

I am sure that the joy of winning the World Series twice was quite indescribable for Roberto, but the thrill of being inducted into the Hall of Fame must be just as sweet. It is a fitting end to a great career. Along with the rest of the baseball world and millions of Puerto Ricans on the island and in the 50 states, I applaud Roberto Alomar and look forward to seeing his plaque placed among baseball's other legends.

Mr. Speaker, induction into the Hall of Fame is more than the highest honor a player can receive—it is how fans and lovers of organized baseball are able to say 'thank you' to their heroes. Thank you, Roberto, for so many wonderful memories. Thank you for pushing the sport to new heights. Thank you for giving millions of people so many reasons to smile and celebrate and feel joy. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues now join me in saying thank you to Roberto Alomar, a player whose character and quality we may never see again.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE ACT

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce as my first bill in the 112th Congress H.R. 212, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, with the support of 54 original cosponsors. My bill will simply define human life as beginning with fertilization and guarantees the constitutional right to life in each human being.

The right to life is our most important fundamental right. Unfortunately, the judicial branch through court decisions has created a complex formula of when life can be taken. My bill makes clear that section two of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which prohibits any state from depriving any person of life without due process of law, affords the right to life of each human being at conception.

As a physician, I know on the basis of medical and scientific evidence, that human life begins with fertilization, and I hope other Members of Congress will join me in supporting the Sanctity of Human Life Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. The Church began commemorating its 200th anniversary year last year at its 2010 Homecoming Celebration.

The Park Avenue Christian Church began as a group of nine members of the Ebenezer

Baptist Church who branched off to form the Disciples of Christ on October 10, 1810. This makes them one of the oldest Disciples of Christ Churches in America. They were able to establish themselves as a permanent fixture on Manhattan's Upper East Side as the Park Avenue Christian Church in 1945, at a site that formerly housed the South Dutch Reformed Church and later the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Park Avenue Christian Church has since become a blessed sanctuary for Disciples of Christ and a familiar and beloved institution in the community.

The Church's design by Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue & Frank Ferguson provided a church of the purest gothic revival style, inspired by the famous Sainte Chapelle in Paris. It is constructed of local New York stone, salvaged from the construction of Central Park, with its spire surmounting the edifice, arches and fluted pilasters supporting the rounded ceiling that covered three naves, a wide cornice extending around the nave and at the middle height of the apse, soaring stained glass windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, a majestic 52-rank William Jackson Jarman Memorial Organ, and an impressive approach of church-wide steps. The building's cornerstone at 1010 Park Avenue at the corner of East 85th Street was laid in 1909, and the new Church was completed two years later.

The Park Avenue Christian Church remains a thriving, vibrant institution to this day, offering spiritual sanctuary, education, social services, and a wide range of other programs to the people of our Nation's greatest city. In 1963, the church opened a day school, which has since become a top private nursery school in the area. Its "Camp Ten Ten" has provided children from diverse backgrounds with a safe and educational summer programming experience. The Church's lively musical programming, including several choirs, concert series, and other musical ensemble performances provide a wonderful outlet for community members. Its Saturday Community Lunch Program provides hot meals and warm companionship to some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Park Avenue Christian Church's interfaith program with the Temple of Universal Judaism has provided an invaluable forum for interfaith discussion and relationships. Under the able stewardship of the Reverend Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, the Park Avenue Christian Church continues to uphold its proud and historic tradition of seeking justice, embracing diversity, and inspiring the imagination.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues rise to join me in recognizing the extraordinary contributions to the civic and spiritual life of New York City made by the historic Park Avenue Christian Church and its parishioners, past, present and future.

AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the reading of the American Constitution on the Floor of the House of Representatives. Our founding fathers spent nearly four months debating the original Constitution dur-

ing the summer of 1787. They spent the following two and a half years securing the support of each of the thirteen original colonies. Since the constitutional convention in Philadelphia, the Constitution has been debated and successfully amended a total of 27 times. Today, we take an important step by recognizing this important history of debate and change.

When it was originally drafted, the American Constitution laid out a framework of government that reflected their best of understanding of the world as it existed in 1787. That document included many important insights and compromises, but the drafters realized that the Constitution—and the great Nation it created—would only last if the Constitution could adapt and change to meet the challenges of the day. That is why the drafters included a mechanism in the Constitution to change the very document they spent months crafting.

As we are all aware, the first exercise of this amendment mechanism concluded in December 1791 when our young Country ratified the Bill of Rights. Those ten amendments embody some of our most important protections from government power including the freedom of speech, protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, and the guarantee of due process.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries the American people amended the Constitution by adding to Congress's express constitutional powers and ensuring Congress has all the tools necessary to address national problems and protect the rights of all Americans. Shortly after the U. S. Civil War, the Constitution was amended to abolish slavery, guarantee the equal protection of the law to all Americans, and guaranteeing the right to vote. With these changes, "We the People" expanded the power to Congress to protect the promises of freedom and equality for all Americans.

I could go on, but my point is not to give a history of the Constitution but to explain how the Constitution has changed for the better. Without these changes, a Chinese-American woman, like me, would never be able to vote in this Country much less serve as a member of Congress. With these powers, Congress has not only been given great power by the American people, it has also been given great responsibility. That responsibility includes ensuring that all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, creed, gender, gender identification, or sexual orientation, have the opportunity to pursue their own version of happiness.

I welcome this reading today as a symbol of the Constitution as a living document. Our understanding of the Constitution is constantly changing and evolving just as the words of the constitution have changed over time. If anything has remained constant, it is the principles espoused by that great document. Those principles ensure that we will have a representative government, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," and that this government will protect the core values of liberty, equality, and opportunity. I look forward to working with my friends across the aisle to ensure this Congress uses its broad powers to promote these values.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF REV. DR. NELSON "FUZZY"
THOMPSON

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great pleasure of recognizing the remarkable achievements of Reverend Doctor Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson. Rev. Thompson is a minister, community activist, humanitarian, and resident of the Fifth District of Missouri, which I proudly represent.

Rev. Thompson graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, with a Bachelor of Science in Education, and received a Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry at St. Paul School of Theology.

"Fuzzy," as he is affectionately known, has represented the Fifth District of Missouri in an exemplary manner locally and nationally. In service to our community, Fuzzy was an original Board Member of Black Adoption Program and a member of the Executive Committee of the Kansas Children's Service League, showing a commitment to our community's youth. During my term as Mayor, he also served as member and chair of the Human Rights Commission. "Fuzzy" now serves as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City.

Politically, Rev. Thompson served as a Regional Coordinator for Rev. Jesse Jackson's Presidential Campaign in 1984 and Missouri State Coordinator for Rev. Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign. Furthermore, he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from 1984–2000.

Reverend Thompson has also represented our nation on an international platform. At the request of Bishop Desmond Tutu, President Nelson Mandela, and the South African Council of Churches, he was one of 22 U.S. ministers that traveled to South Africa on a fact-finding educational exchange. Reverend Thompson traveled to South Africa a second time as an official observer for the first election held in South Africa granting the right to vote to all races. He called the experience humbling, as he watched people line up for blocks in order to exercise their right to vote for the first time. He was also one of three U.S. ministers to conduct Easter services for hostages being held in Tehran, Iran.

As well as a strong advocate for human rights around the globe, he is just as strong an advocate for civil rights and economic rights within our community. When South Africa was a nation which practiced apartheid, Dr. Thompson helped organize a protest against a Frank Sinatra concert. The purpose was to draw attention to American celebrities who performed in racially exclusive venues. He has organized pickets in opposition to monies from the local school district awarded to contractors who had failed to include minority contractors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Reverend Dr. Nelson "Fuzzy" Thompson for serving the State of Missouri and our nation. He is a true role model to the citizens of our country and his successes serve as a stepping stone for many others eager to serve. I offer this small token of appreciation to an exceptional civil servant for all of the work he has done, taking strength

from the many lives he has touched throughout our community.

REMEMBERING FORMER CON-
GRESSMAN WILLIAM RATCH-
FORD

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman William Ratchford who passed away on Sunday at the age of 76. He served in this body for three terms from 1979 to 1985 representing Connecticut's fifth congressional district. Bill was born in Danbury, Connecticut in 1934 and led a remarkable life that was most notable for putting public service first. His father was a hat-factory worker and Bill went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut and then to Georgetown University Law School. After graduating from law school, he became a lawyer in Danbury and served in the Connecticut National Guard. He was first elected to office in 1962 as a representative in the Connecticut General Assembly where he served for six terms and rose to the position of Speaker of the House during his last four years. While in the State House, he became involved in the issue of aging, which came to define his legacy. He made a tremendous contribution to the state as chairman of the Governors' Blue Ribbon Committee on Nursing Homes, and in 1977 he was tapped by Governor Ella Grasso to become the state commissioner on aging.

In 1979, Bill won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the Fifth Congressional District in Northwestern Connecticut. During his three terms in Congress, he served on the committees on appropriations, transportation, education and labor, and interior. Bill continued to have an active career after leaving Congress, remaining involved in government and teaching at Georgetown University. He was appointed by President Clinton to be assistant administrator at the General Services Administration where he served until 2001.

Bill Ratchford was an honest public servant who cared deeply about making the world around him a better place and advocating for the issues that he passionately cared about. He will always be remembered for his focus on senior citizens and children and will be missed by all who knew him. I offer my deep condolences to his wife Barbara of 53 years, his three sons, and to his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING JEAN HARPER
ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean Harper on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Jean was born on January 14, 1921 to David and Alda Sims Hart in Avondale, North Carolina. At a young age, Jean relocated to her home of Washington, District of Columbia.

For thirty-two years, Jean served as a diligent employee at Freedman's Hospital as a Dietitian. While working at Freedman's Hospital, Jean met the love of her life, James "Jimmy" Harper. The couple soon married and had one daughter, Barbara Jean. In 1954, Jean and Jimmy moved to Taylor Street where she currently resides. Jean is a proud member of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church where she serves as a missionary and works actively in the Pastor's Aide Club.

In addition to working enthusiastically in her church, Jean devotes the majority of her time to her family. Invariably, she can be found with her daughter, her grandchildren, and her great grandson. Jean enjoys traveling, shopping, cooking, and socializing with friends and extended family.

For her commitment to her family, to her community, and to her Nation, it is my privilege to wish Jean Harper a very happy 90th birthday.

IN TRIBUTE TO QUEENSVIEW ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Queensview, a cooperative apartment complex in the borough of Queens in the district that I represent. Queensview celebrated its 60th anniversary last month.

Initially organized as the Joint Queensview Housing Enterprises Inc., under the Redevelopment Companies Law of New York State, Queensview was created as a model of middle class housing. The co-op's founders were a group of public-spirited New Yorkers, including Louis H. Pink, who was then president of the New York State Housing Board and State Superintendent of Insurance, and Gerard Swope, former president of General Electric and former chairman of the New York City Housing Authority.

Queensview's first Board of Directors included Mr. Pink (who was President of Queensview), Mr. Swope (Chairman of the board of Queensview), and such prominent citizens as Henry Morgenthau, Jr., former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; David Sarnoff, chairman of the board of RCA; Mary K. Simkhovitch, director emeritus of Greenwich House; Thomas J. Watson, vice-president of IBM; Howard S. Cullman, chairman of the New York Port Authority; Bernard Gimble, president of Gimble Brothers; Howard C. Shepard, president of National City Bank (now Citibank); the Very Reverend E. Roberts Moore, formerly of the New York City Housing Authority; Mrs. Yorke Allen of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council; Albert Lasker of the Lasker Foundation; Beardsley Ruml, chairman of the Board of Macy's; and G. Howland Shaw, president of the Welfare Council of New York.

The complex, which opened its doors on November 14, 1950, is comprised of 14 buildings, with 52 apartments per building (726 apartments in all). Each building has 4 apartments per floor, meaning that every tenant can enjoy a corner apartment, with views in two directions. The buildings are situated on 9

acres of land. The apartment buildings themselves occupy only 14% of the property, leaving the rest available as open space. There are two playgrounds (which are used by the entire community), large lawns and beautiful landscaping. Some of the land has been made available for on-site parking, an amenity that is a great convenience for residents. Several buildings have community or club rooms that are used by a variety of local groups. As a mark of gratitude, the cooperators dedicated the community rooms in Buildings 7 and 14 to Queensview's founders, Mr. Pink and Mr. Swope.

In 1987, Queensview paid off its initial mortgage. In 1989, Queensview reconstituted as a private corporation known as Queensview, Inc., but since it is a limited equity corporation, prices remain affordable. As a cooperative, Queensview is a self-governing organization, overseen by the Queensview Council. The Council consists of two representatives and an alternate elected by each building. Residents make decisions about management of the building, including the nature of the amenities, upkeep of the building, staffing and security. As a result of their diligence and conscientiousness, Queensview is impeccably maintained and is a wonderful place to live.

Queensview is a naturally-occurring retirement community (NORC), meaning that a significant number of residents are seniors. The NORC program, operated by Selfhelp Community Services, provides residents with a wide range of on-site services including health and wellness, case management, counseling, social, recreational, educational, home care, technology, transportation, community trips and volunteer opportunities.

Since 1951, the Queensview Nursery School & Kindergarten has provided day care and early education. Currently serving children aged 2.9–5, the Queensview Nursery School & Kindergarten gives parents peace of mind by providing a caring and nurturing environment for their children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the success of Queensview, a warm, welcoming and gracious community and a terrific place to live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 4 I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO SUSAN PETERS, CARMICHAEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2011 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Susan Peters, who on January 7, 2011, the

Carmichael Chamber of Commerce honored as its 2011 Person of the Year.

Susan Peters is currently serving her second term on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors representing the third district, which includes the community of Carmichael. Susan was first elected in 2004, re-elected in 2008, and chosen by her colleagues to be chair in 2009.

Susan also serves on a number of boards including the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, which she chaired in 2009, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, where she currently serves as vice chair, and the Sacramento Transportation Authority, where she served as chair in 2006.

Her career started in banking, leading her to serve as treasurer of McCuen Properties beside her late husband, Peter McCuen. Susan also served as Board Chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, where she was a forceful voice for business and private enterprise in the region. At the chamber, she worked to locate Raley Field in West Sacramento and was the founding chair of the Chamber's "Perspectives" program, an annual conference hosting national and world leaders discussing topical subjects.

In addition to her duties as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Susan currently serves as Board Chair of the Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation which restored the historic home of California's eighth governor.

Susan has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Sacramento region in both the private and public sectors. She is a true public servant who is always accessible to her constituents.

It has been my pleasure to know Susan Peters and more importantly, to call her my friend. I am pleased to congratulate her on being named the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Person of the Year.

"EXPERTS LETTER ON DEFENSE SPENDING"

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged to see some signs that the mind set that would not only exclude the military budget from deficit reduction efforts but would in fact inflate an already excessive allocation has been weakening. Secretary Gates' statement on Thursday, January 6, of a recognition of many to take the deficit into account in budgeting for the Pentagon is encouraging, although he does not go far enough. I think that there is no issue more important than to recognize that reducing the extent to which America engages in an extremely expensive worldwide subsidy for many of our wealthy allies in the area of defense has contributed significantly to our deficit, and it is clear that we can substantially reduce military spending without in any way reducing the security of the United States.

In November of last year, a wide-ranging group of people very knowledgeable about national security needs met. I am encouraged that the Commission recognized the importance of including military spending restraints,

although I did not agree with their proposal to increase healthcare costs for retirees. And I believe that the thoughtful letter that they received from this wide-ranging coalition of experts on national security and military spending should be shared with our colleagues so I ask that it be printed here.

EXPERTS LETTER ON DEFENSE SPENDING TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

DEAR CO-CHAIRMAN BOWLES AND CO-CHAIRMAN SIMPSON: We are writing to you as experts in national security and defense economics to convey our views on the national security implications of the Commission's work and especially the need for achieving responsible reductions in military spending. In this regard, we appreciate the initiative you have taken in your 10 November 2010 draft proposal to the Commission. It begins a necessary process of serious reflection, debate, and action.

The vitality of our economy is the cornerstone of our nation's strength. We share the Commission's desire to bring our financial house into order. Doing so is not merely a question of economics. Reducing the national debt is also a national security imperative.

To date, the Obama administration has exempted the Defense Department from any budget reductions. This is short-sighted: It makes it more difficult to accomplish the task of restoring our economic strength, which is the underpinning of our military power.

As the rest of the nation labors to reduce its debt burden, the current plan is to boost the base DOD budget by 10 percent in real terms over the next decade. This would come on top of the nearly 52 percent real increase in base military spending since 1998. (When war costs are included the increase has been much greater: 95 percent.)

We appreciate Secretary Gates' efforts to reform the Pentagon's business and acquisition practices. However, even if his reforms fulfill their promise, the current plan does not translate them into budgetary savings that contribute to solving our deficit problem. Their explicit aim is to free funds for other uses inside the Pentagon. This is not good enough.

Granting defense a special dispensation puts at risk the entire deficit reduction effort. Defense spending today constitutes over 55 percent of discretionary spending and 23 percent of the federal budget. An exemption for defense not only undermines the broader call for fiscal responsibility, but also makes overall budget restraint much harder as a practical economic and political matter.

We need not put our economic power at risk in this way. Today the United States possesses a wide margin of global military superiority. The defense budget can bear significant reduction without compromising our essential security.

We recognize that larger military adversaries may rise to face us in the future. But the best hedge against this possibility is vigilance and a vibrant economy supporting a military able to adapt to new challenges as they emerge.

We can achieve greater defense economy today in several ways, all of which we urge you to consider seriously. We need to be more realistic in the goals we set for our armed forces and more selective in our choices regarding their use abroad. We should focus our military on core security goals and on those current and emerging threats that most directly affect us.

We also need to be more judicious in our choice of security instruments when dealing

with international challenges. Our armed forces are a uniquely expensive asset and for some tasks no other instrument will do. For many challenges, however, the military is not the most cost-effective choice. We can achieve greater efficiency today without diminishing our security by better discriminating between vital, desirable, and unnecessary military missions and capabilities.

There is a variety of specific options that would produce savings, some of which we describe below. The important point, however, is a firm commitment to seek savings through a reassessment of our defense strategy, our global posture, and our means of producing and managing military power.

Since the end of the Cold War, we have required our military to prepare for and conduct more types of missions in more places around the world. The Pentagon's task list now includes not only preventive war, regime change, and nation building, but also vague efforts to "shape the strategic environment" and stem the emergence of threats. It is time to prune some of these missions and restore an emphasis on defense and deterrence.

U.S. combat power dramatically exceeds that of any plausible combination of conventional adversaries. To cite just one example, Secretary Gates has observed that the U.S. Navy is today as capable as the next 13 navies combined, most of which are operated by our allies. We can safely save by trimming our current margin of superiority.

America's permanent peacetime military presence abroad is largely a legacy of the Cold War. It can be reduced without undermining the essential security of the United States or its allies.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have revealed the limits of military power. Avoiding these types of operation globally would allow us to roll back the recent increase in the size of our Army and Marine Corps.

The Pentagon's acquisition process has repeatedly failed, routinely delivering weapons and equipment late, over cost, and less capable than promised. Some of the most expensive systems correspond to threats that are least prominent today and unlikely to regain prominence soon. In these cases, savings can be safely realized by cancelling, delaying, or reducing procurement or by seeking less costly alternatives.

Recent efforts to reform Defense Department financial management and acquisition practices must be strengthened. And we must impose budget discipline to trim service redundancies and streamline command, support systems, and infrastructure.

Change along these lines is bound to be controversial. Budget reductions are never easy—no less for defense than in any area of government. However, fiscal realities call on us to strike a new balance between investing in military power and attending to the fundamentals of national strength on which our true power rests. We can achieve safe savings in defense if we are willing to rethink how we produce military power and how, why, and where we put it to use.

Sincerely,

Gordon Adams, American University; Robert Art, Brandeis University; Deborah Avant, University of California, Irvine; Andrew Bacevich, Boston University; Richard Betts, Columbia University; Linda Bilmes, Kennedy School, Harvard University; Steven Clemons, New America Foundation; Joshua Cohen, Stanford University and Boston Review; Carl Conetta, Project on Defense Alternatives; Owen R. Cote Jr., Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Michael Desch, University of Notre Dame; Matthew Evangelista, Cornell University; Benjamin H. Friedman, Cato Institute; Lt. Gen. (USA, Ret.) Robert G. Gard, Jr., Center for

Arms Control and Non-Proliferation; David Gold, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The New School; William Hartung, Arms and Security Initiative, New America Foundation.

David Hendrickson, Colorado College; Michael Intriligator, UCLA and Milken Institute; Robert Jervis, Columbia University; Sean Kay, Ohio Wesleyan University; Elizabeth Kier, University of Washington; Charles Knight, Project on Defense Alternatives; Lawrence Korb, Center for American Progress; Peter Krogh, Georgetown University; Richard Ned Lebow, Dartmouth College; Walter LaFeber, Cornell University; Col. (USA, Ret.) Douglas Macgregor; Scott McConnell, The American Conservative; John Mearsheimer, University of Chicago; Steven Metz, national security analyst and writer; Steven Miller, Kennedy School, Harvard University and International Security; Janne Nolan, American Security Project.

Robert Paarlberg, Wellesley College and Harvard University; Paul Pillar, Georgetown University; Barry Posen, Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Christopher Preble, Cato Institute; Daryl Press, Dartmouth College; Jeffrey Record, defense policy analyst and author; David Rieff, author; Thomas Schelling, University of Maryland; Jack Snyder, Columbia University; J. Ann Tickner, University of Southern California; Robert Tucker, Johns Hopkins University; Stephen Van Evera, Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Stephen Walt, Harvard University; Kenneth Waltz, Columbia University; Cindy Williams, Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Daniel Wirls, University of California, Santa Cruz.

IN TRIBUTE TO STUART APPELBAUM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Stuart Appelbaum, an extraordinary man and my good friend, who has served with distinction as President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, representing thousands of working men and women across our nation. Last month, Mr. Appelbaum was honored by the venerable Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) organization at its annual Roosevelt Day Dinner at the Roosevelt Hotel in midtown Manhattan.

Stuart Appelbaum became President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union on May 1, 1998, and has been re-elected to the position twice since then. He previously served as International Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, Executive Board Member, Assistant to the President and Coordinator of Special Projects for the union. Stu Appelbaum is also an International Vice President and member of the Executive Board of the 1.4 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers International Union. He is the President of the Jewish Labor Committee, and an officer of two global union federations: the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations and Union Network International. He is a Vice President of the Consortium for Worker Education.

Mr. Appelbaum has also served as a Vice President of the national AFL-CIO, a member

of the federation's Executive Council from 1998 until 2005, vice president of the New York State AFL-CIO and of the New York City Central Labor Council. An honors graduate of Brandeis University and Harvard Law School, he previously served as Chief House Counsel of the Democratic National Committee and as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the State of Connecticut.

A skilled and tireless political activist who has dedicated his life to progressive causes, Stu Appelbaum was elected a Delegate to the 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 Democratic National Conventions and an Alternate Delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention. In 2008, he served as a member of the Electoral College as an Obama elector from New York.

By honoring Stuart Appelbaum last month, ADA is upholding its finest progressive traditions. Founded by Eleanor Roosevelt, John Kenneth Galbraith, Walter Reuther, Arthur Schlesinger, and Reinhold Niebuhr, the ADA seeks to promote and preserve Franklin D. Roosevelt's vision for a New Deal for the American people resulting in a more just society.

With the election of President Obama, the ADA's mission of promoting progressive American values has gained renewed momentum. Past presidents of the ADA include several of my distinguished colleagues in this House: BARNEY FRANK, CHARLES RANGEL, JOHN LEWIS, and JIM MCDERMOTT. Stuart Appelbaum is a proud heir to the ADA's long and honored tradition, and it is therefore entirely fitting that his lifetime of extraordinarily effective and passionate advocacy has been recognized by Americans for Democratic Action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Stuart Appelbaum, a great American and a great New Yorker whose life's work has improved the lives and working conditions of countless individuals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on the legislative day of January 6, 2011 and missed rollcall vote 8. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. BILLY TAYLOR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it brings me sadness and honor to pay final tribute to Dr. Billy Taylor. He died Tuesday, December 28, 2010, of heart failure in Riverside, New York. He was 89.

For eight decades, Dr. Taylor remained vigorously dedicated to nurturing jazz and creating new forums and opportunities for the artists who perform it. He encompassed that rare combination of creativity, intelligence, vision,

commitment and leadership, all qualities that made him one of our most cherished national treasures.

Dr. Billy Taylor began his career in New York City in 1942 in Harlem playing with Ben Webster's quartet at the Three Deuces alongside Webster, Big Sid Catlett and Charlie Drayton opposite the Art Tatum Trio. He immersed himself in the jazz scene over the next few years, playing with many jazz greats of the day, such as Slam Stewart, Eddie South, Stuff Smith, Coleman Hawkins, Jo Jones and Roy Eldridge.

1949 marked the beginning of his two-year stint as house pianist at Birdland, the legendary New York City jazz club. He played with everybody—Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Oscar Pettiford, Art Blakey, Milt Jackson, Zoot Sims, Roy Haynes, and Kenny Dorham. He often played opposite such bands as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and Lennie Tristano. Birdland provided Taylor one of his greatest learning experiences.

During the 1950s Dr. Taylor made some recordings with his own group for such labels as Prestige, Riverside, ABC Paramount, and Capital Records. He also recorded albums with Quincy Jones, Sy Oliver, Mundell Lowe, Neal Hefti, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis", Sonny Stitt, Lucky Thompson, Coleman Hawkins and Dinah Washington. He started his own music publishing company, Duane Music, Inc.

Dr. Taylor worked regularly with his trio and hosted his own daily radio show on New York's WLIB during the 1960s. He made guest shots on various TV shows and recordings for Capital Records. Taylor started writing about jazz and giving lectures/clinics to music teachers interested in teaching jazz.

He was a strong advocate for the arts. Taylor concentrated many of his efforts on generating funding for the arts and humanities. He focused on radio and television in order to

gain better exposure for America's classical music. He helped to facilitate many local and national broadcasts featuring jazz artists in live performances.

Dr. Taylor was tapped by Charles Kuralt to become arts correspondent for the popular television program, "CBS Sunday Morning" in the early 1980s.

In the 90s, Dr. Taylor was named Artistic Advisor for Jazz to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Since 1994, under the umbrella of Jazz at the Kennedy Center, he developed numerous concert series including the Art Tatum Pianorama, the Louis Armstrong Legacy series, the annual Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, Beyond Category, Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead, and the Jazz Ambassadors Program.

"Dr. Taylor was a remarkable musician and humanitarian. He was a primary advisor for both the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters program in 1982 and was invaluable as the agency sought to strengthen its support for the jazz field in 2004," said Wayne Brown, Director, Music & Opera Programs, NEA. Dr. Billy Taylor was named an NEA Jazz Master in 1988.

Throughout his career, Dr. Billy Taylor was one of those rare artists who was also a scholar of his art. He was a premiere pianist and an elegant stylist. Many acclaimed him as the most exciting pianist in the jazz world.

Dr. Billy Taylor will be remembered as one of the jazz world's historians, master musicians, an educator, storyteller, sage, and jazz virtuoso.

I extend my sincere condolences to his family for this tremendous loss and share their enormous pride in all that he accomplished.

AMENDMENT TO BALANCE FEDERAL BUDGET

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 7, 2011

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to introduce H.J. Res. 11, an Amendment to the Constitution to balance the federal budget. This Amendment to the U.S. Constitution will require Congress and the President to balance the federal budget every fiscal year.

To prevent our national debt from increasing above the already unsustainable \$14 trillion current level, my Amendment simply does what 49 other States have required—keep spending levels equal to tax revenues. Unlike other similar Amendments that require a simple majority or 3/5 majority vote in both Chambers of Congress to allow an excess of federal outlays over receipts or to raise the debt ceiling, my Amendment requires a 2/3 majority vote. Also, it limits spending growth of the entire budget to no more than population growth plus inflation and only allows for waivers of these strict requirements during actual Declarations of War by Congress. Additionally, it forces the next fiscal year to account for any imbalance in the previous fiscal year's estimates by placing such amount in the spending column for the following fiscal year. Lastly, my Amendment will return all excess revenue at the end of the fiscal year to the American taxpayer.

It is past time that the federal government put in place responsible budgeting measures. In order to restore the public trust that Congress can indeed budget their tax dollars wisely, we must pass a balanced budget amendment.