

As the war in the Pacific intensified in 1942, the USS *Ralph Talbot* found herself near the Solomon Islands where, at Savo Island, the destroyer engaged in a heated exchange of gunfire with the enemy that left the ship badly damaged.

After repairs the USS *Ralph Talbot* reentered the conflict in 1943, taking an active role in late June and July with the New Georgia campaign in the Solomon Islands. Her vital actions include rescuing 300 survivors from the downed ship USS *McCawley*, providing cover to landing troops, and bombing enemy-held areas. These engagements had prompted a recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation by Commander Destroyer Squadron Twelve.

The USS *Ralph Talbot* continued patrol and escort duties in the region, as well as landing cover. In 1945, the destroyer commenced duties near Japan, facing difficulty early on with a kamikaze attack that again brought considerable damage. The attack, though, failed to dampen the resolve of the USS *Ralph Talbot* and her crew. She went on to continue patrolling and escorting for the remainder of the war. Following the war, the destroyer was used in atomic tests that ultimately led to her decommission, thus ending a career that earned 12 battle stars during World War II.

I share this with you in the hope that we may honor the dedication and fearless service of the USS *Ralph Talbot* and her crew. The efforts of this destroyer played a vital role in one of the most decisive times in our modern history.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I commend the service of the USS *Ralph Talbot* and believe we can all look to her with appreciation and gratitude.

INTRODUCTION OF DUTY SUSPENSION BILL

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to suspend the duty imposed on an ingredient used to develop products used by North Carolina farmers. Glufosinate-ammonium is the active ingredient used in two key herbicides, Liberty and Rely. Liberty is used to control weeds, particularly by corn and soybean growers. Rely controls nutrient and water robbing weeds and grass that plague apple, grape and tree nut growers.

Glufosinate-ammonium is the major cost component in the production of these herbicides, and the manufacturer of this ingredient will be suspending production for more than a year to retool its production facilities. Suspending the duty on this ingredient, currently assessed a tariff of 3.7%, will allow for increased importation of Glufosinate-ammonium so that production of these important herbicides will not be interrupted.

I have been informed that there are no U.S. producers of Glufosinate-ammonium so the bill should receive approval by the U.S. International Trade Commission. I urge the Ways and Means Committee to act on my legislation when it considers the next miscellaneous tariff bill in the coming months.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS FOR WOMEN ACT OF 2002

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Mr. SHAW, in introducing this bill aimed at making improvements in benefits for women under the current Social Security system.

In order to maintain fiscal responsibility, we were limited in the number and scope of the improvements we were able to make. However, the disabled widows, divorced retirees, and widows whose husbands died shortly after retirement who are affected by these improvements will certainly benefit from these changes.

Equally important as the benefit changes themselves, however, is what this bill symbolizes. It shows the importance of maintaining and preserving the defined-benefit Social Security system we have today. It shows how we are able to improve the fortunes of needy beneficiaries by building on the existing structure of the Social Security system. And it shows how the two parties are able to work together once they agree on the goal: to put aside Social Security privatization and instead improve Social Security's guaranteed, lifelong, secure benefits.

I look forward to the swift adoption of these important benefit enhancements.

IN HONOR OF TERESA JOHNSON- HUNT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Teresa Johnson-Hunt in recognition of her tireless energy and passionate commitment to her community.

Teresa, affectionately called "Terry", is the third oldest of seven children born to the late Nathaniel and Louise Haywood Johnson of Panama. She came to New York in the early sixties to pursue a career as a Fashion Designer. She graduated from the Mayer School of Fashion Design and the Fashion Institute in New York City.

She was employed as an Assistant Fashion Designer for twelve years at several prominent fashion houses in the "Fashion District". Her career took her to many interesting places and gave her the chance to meet many influential people. One of her most memorable moments was her assignment to design costumes for a group of performers for the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Her professional accomplishments, include a certificate in Word Processing from Brooklyn College and a certificate in Health Administration from the City of New York of New York's Health Services Administration. After attending LaGuardia Community College, she decided to change careers and enter the field of healthcare. She started this new chapter in her life by volunteering as an EKG Technical

Aide at what was then Greenpoint Hospital. She quickly decided that the caring and sensitivity to the pain and suffering of the patients affected her too personally so she decided not to continue in the health field. She immediately decided to refocus her studies. After taking business and computer courses at LaGuardia Community College, she obtained employment at Community Board No. 5 in Brooklyn. She currently serves as Assistant to the District Manager.

Her tireless energy and sincere concern for the well being and improvement of those whom she serves so willingly and graciously is commendable. Terry is extremely proud to be a member of the National Council of Negro Women as well as the Women's Caucus. She is a member of St. Claire's Roman Catholic Church. She is married to Von R. Hunt, a former professional musician. She is the mother of two children, Delina and Gregory and the proud grandmother of Jenille, Gregory Jr., Obassi and Basaar.

Mr. Speaker, Teresa Johnson-Hunt has tireless energy and sincere concern for the well-being and improvement of the community and its residents. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly hard working woman.

MUSIC LEGEND PAT BOONE

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a man, who has entertained millions in song and dance for more than two generations while giving of himself to help people in need all across the country.

Pat Boone, a direct descendant of pioneer Daniel Boone, was the second most popular singer of the late 50s behind Elvis Presley and sold more than 45 million records. He is ranked as the No. 10 singles artist of all time, with a repertoire that exceeds those of Aretha Franklin, Billy Joel and Frank Sinatra. He also managed to finish his college degree, graduating magna cum laude from Columbia University in New York City in 1958.

He was born Charles Eugene Boone in 1934 in Jacksonville, Florida, and moved with his family to Tennessee in 1936. Boone grew up in the Nashville, Tennessee area, where he began singing in public at the age of 10. While still in his teens, he married Shirley Foley in 1953, the daughter of country star Red Foley. Their marriage has endured to this day and they have four daughters: Cherry, Lindy, Debby and Laury.

The following year in 1954, Boone recorded his first of four singles for the Republic label in Nashville and appeared on Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts and Ted Mack's Amateur Hour, winning both. A short while later Boone was signed to the Dot label, one that he would stay with throughout his run on the charts from 1955 to 1962. His first top-40 song on the Billboard pop charts was Two Hearts, a cover of an R&B hit for The Charms, which went to No. 16 for Pat in 1955.

Boone projected a smooth style and a clean-cut, wholesome all-American image. His

next offering was a cover of Fats Domino's *Ain't That A Shame*, a song that propelled both Fats and Boone to stardom. He followed with a cover version of *El Dorados' At My Front Door*, which quickly became his second record to teach the Top Ten.

Boone had his own way of doing R&B songs. His formula worked and his records sold well. He took on Little Richard, recording Tutti Frutti and Long Tall Sally, both of which he made into big hits. By 1957 Boone's popularity had skyrocketed and the movie and television producers came calling. He appeared in 15 films, including *Bernardine*, *April Love*, and *State Fair*. From 1957 to 1960 he hosted his own television series *The Pat Boone/Chevy Showroom*. His final top-40 song was a novelty record, *Speedy Gonzalez* in 1962 and it peaked at number six.

Boone also had a number of country hits in the 70s, with singles *Indiana Girl* and *Texas Woman* and albums *I Love You More And More Each Day* and *The Country Side Of Pat Boone*. Pat has also been popular in the United Kingdom, where he had 27 records reach the top 40.

Pat Boone has always been a man of deep, personal faith. Over and over again, he has acted on his faith to help other people.

He should be recognized most of all for his self-sacrificing devotion to charity work and for simply carrying out God's call to love Him and to love others. Boone wrote a best-selling autobiography and dedicated the proceeds to establish a Christian college in Villanova, Pennsylvania. He has served as the national spokesman for the March of Dimes, National Association of the Blind and many other charities. Boone served for 18 years as the entertainment chairman and host of the National Easter Seal telethon, which raised over \$600 million for handicapped and disabled children.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor the great Pat Boone on behalf of the hundreds and hundreds of children whose lives have been made better through Bethel Bible Village children's home in my hometown of Chattanooga, TN. For 25 years, Pat has not just associated his name with Bethel Bible Village, but he has put his heart and soul into its success. Each year, for the past 25 years, he has sponsored their largest fundraiser, the Pat Boone Bethel Spectacular, which has raised over \$1.3 million to help children in the Chattanooga area whose lives have been shattered by crime and troubled homes. Pat's involvement has brought national recognition to Bethel Bible Village, which has allowed them to expand their ministry exponentially. Pat Boone is a true friend to these children and his personal testimony has had such a positive influence on their lives.

Pat Boone is a recording legend and humanitarian role model who understands that the true joy of giving occurs when one doesn't expect anything in return. Over his 40-year career as an entertainer, he has worn the hats of musician, actor, author, and radio host. His tireless commitment to helping others personifies the Biblical instruction that, "to whom so ever much is given, much is also required."

IN HONOR OF PASTOR PAULINE WILLIAMS GRIFFIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin in recognition of her work as a leader in the Church of God in Christ Jesus, an educator, a counselor, community leader, professional woman, wife and mother.

Pauline Williams Griffin was born in Angier, North Carolina. She received her elementary and the first part of her secondary education in Lillington, North Carolina. After her family moved to New York City in 1944, she graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. She went on to attend Pace University, Bank Street College and The College for Human Services.

Her Bishop, Dr. W.H. Amos, Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, appointed her Elder of the Church of God in Christ Jesus, N.D. in 1965. Elder Griffin moved rapidly within this setting, as she became the state Mother of the Church of God in Christ Jesus for New York State. She is currently the General Mother as well as a Board Member of the Bank Street College Community Day Care Action Coalition. She is the Director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus Day Care Center as well as the Executive Director of the Church of God in Christ Jesus After-School Program at P.S. 81 in Brooklyn. Elder Griffin is also a member of Community Planning Board No. 3. She serves as the Director of a comprehensive program for young people which includes personal and health counseling and has been directly responsible for the enrollment of 60 students in the program of College for Human Services. In addition, she is Vice President of the Movement for Meaningful Involvement in Child Care. Elder Griffin serves as Vice President of the United Minorities, Inc., is a member of the New York State Citizens Coalition for Children Inc. and the Chairperson of the Concerned Foster and Adoptive Parents Support Group, Inc. as well as belonging to a host of professional organizations.

Pauline is married to Elder Clifton Griffin and is blessed with two lovely daughters, two sons and a beautiful granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Pauline Williams Griffin is a dedicated leader of her community and her church. She is committed to teaching the word of God and bringing the word to the greater community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving this recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

RE-REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN DENYING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing re-registration campaign for religious organizations conducted by the State Com-

mittee for Relations with Religious Organizations, headed by Chairman Rafik Aliyev potentially violates Azerbaijan's commitments to religious freedom as a participating State in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Azerbaijan must take steps commensurate with its commitments under the Helsinki Final Act and subsequent OSCE documents to ensure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice their religion or belief, alone or in community with others.

The State Committee, created last year to replace the Religious Affairs Directorate, has broad administrative powers, which Chairman Aliyev seems willing to utilize in an attempt to ban minority religious communities through denial of legal registration. Recent reports indicate that of the 407 religious groups previously registered, only approximately 150 are currently under consideration for re-registration by the State Committee. An additional 200 organizations were unsuccessful in their initial application due to technical errors and were asked to resubmit these requests. While I am pleased that 80 groups have been approved, reportedly most are Muslim, I hope that the State Committee is not specifically discriminating against minority faiths or religious groups.

Despite the extension of the re-registration deadline to the end of March, there is legitimate concern that groups will be arbitrarily denied registration, and thereby legal status, despite fulfilling all requirements. In addition, although this is the third registration campaign since 1991, reportedly about 2,000 more religious groups remain unregistered. Recently, a senior official at the State Committee declared unregistered groups will be closed down.

The fear that the State Committee will refuse to register religious groups for arbitrary reasons is supported by several statements from Chairman Aliyev himself. For instance, he declared the State Committee hoped to introduce more stringent regulations to govern both religious organizations and individuals. He also said the State Committee can request a court to suspend activities of any religious organization conducting activities deemed illegal or found to undermine national security. The State Committee has also limited the ability for religious communities to import religious material. Reportedly, Chairman Aliyev also stated "religious organizations must be controlled" and that "religion is dangerous." This flies in the face of President Heydar Aliyev's November 1999 public statements supporting religious freedom in Azerbaijan.

Also of concern are the heavy-handed actions against religious groups by Azeri Government officials and police officers. For example, on January 18, 2002, National Security Ministry officers raided an unregistered Protestant church, Living Stones, which was meeting in a private apartment. The police and security officers searched the residence and seized religious literature. Ten individuals who were attending the meeting were taken into custody, transferred to a police station and interrogated. While eight individuals were released, two church leaders, Yusuf Farkhadov and Kasym Kasymov, were given two-week prison sentences for violating Article 310 of the Administrative Code, which addresses "petty hooliganism." The reported justifications for the raid was that the church is not registered. However, Living Stones had attempted to register with the government, but only after 1½